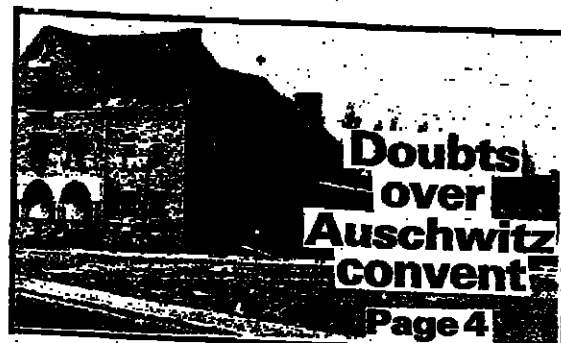


THE JERUSALEM POST

Vol. LV, No. 16456 Tuesday, February 24, 1987 • Shvat 25, 5747 • Jomada Tani 26, 1407 NIS 0.80 (Eilat NIS 0.70)



Doubts over Auschwitz convent
Page 4



Paris terror trial, page 3



Released Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun with his son, Boris, and wife, Inna, on their arrival at Moscow's Kazan railway station yesterday. See story page 2. (Reuter)

Movement on int'l conference Proposal formally endorsed by EEC foreign ministers

Peres off to Cairo

By BENNY MORRIS (Jerusalem), YOSSE LEMPKOWICZ (Brussels), and DAVID HOROVITZ (London)

The European Community foreign ministers yesterday formally supported, for the first time, the convocation of an international conference for Middle East peace under UN auspices.

The 12 ministers declared, after their meeting in Brussels, that the conference "should provide a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned". They avoided, under Arab pressure, explicitly endorsing direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

The EEC ministers reaffirmed the 1980 Venice Declaration, which called for PLO "association" with any peace talks and upheld the Palestinians' right to "self-determination."

In Jerusalem the EEC's public backing for an international conference was welcomed last night by the Foreign Ministry. The ministry's political Director-General Yossi Beilin, who spent last week in Europe trying to mobilize EEC support for such a conference, expressed the hope that the declaration would help advance the peace process.

Best hope for "injecting momentum into a process that has been blocked for too long." He added that it was "not our concern" that the EEC's declared support for an international conference came just days after Shamir had expressed his opposition to the idea.

Howe said the EEC "did not want to turn our backs" on the Arab-Israeli dispute, adding that ministers shared the fear that the present "stagnation in the peace process is dangerous and unstable."

Howe stressed that peace could only come to the region when all parties recognized the rights of each other, "including the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination." Neither in his statement, nor in answering questions from reporters, however, did Howe make specific mention of the PLO.

The EEC, under its Belgian president, (Continued on Back Page)

By BENNY MORRIS (Jerusalem) and WALTER RUBY (New York) Jerusalem Post Correspondents

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday said in New York that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's visit to Cairo, which begins tomorrow, could lead to a break-up of the national unity government.

The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that Peres is going to Egypt for a three-day "working visit" at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Esamat Abdel Meguid. Peres's talks with Meguid and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will focus on plans to convene an international conference for the Middle East, an idea opposed firmly by Shamir and the other Likud leaders.

At a meeting with reporters in New York, Shamir was asked whether Peres's meeting with Mubarak could lead to a coalition break-up. "It could be," he said.

Shamir emphasized that the "international conference" issue could well lead to a coalition break-up. But he added that he was not worried by Peres's visit. "Peres can talk about anything he wants in Cairo, but he cannot decide anything without the approval of the government."

Peres leaves for Cairo a few hours before Shamir's return from his nine-day trip to the U.S., where he repeatedly expressed his flat opposition to the international conference concept, in public and in meetings with Reagan Administration leaders.

According to sources close to Peres, the minister's trip was approved by cabinet members in a telephone poll. None of the Likud ministers voted against the trip.

Peres's aides informed Shamir's aide, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Yossi Ben-Aharon, of the impending trip. Ben-Aharon did not object, they said.

Likud sources, while displeased at Peres's promotion of an international conference, refrained yesterday from openly objecting to Peres's departure before Shamir's return and without his explicit blessing.

The Likud sources said that Peres will be the "third cabinet minister to visit Egypt since Shamir became premier last October. Energy minister Moshe Shalom and Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein visited Egypt during the past three months. Shamir supports every visit by an Israeli minister to Egypt."

The sources said that the date of the visit was "no doubt set by Mubarak and the announcement came as no surprise. Peres was known to be due to go to Egypt."

The sources linked the visit to Mubarak's forthcoming visit to the U.S., where he intends to ask for economic aid. The sources said that visiting Peres before arriving in Washington will bolster Mubarak's image as a peace-maker.

Sources close to Peres said that the talks will deal with the convening of an international conference, focusing mainly on how long the international meet will last before the start of direct Israeli-Arab talks and on the conditions for the participation of the Great Powers. The (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

See text of statement, p. 4

He estimated that following the declaration, the EEC should be able to play a greater role than in the past in encouraging other Middle Eastern countries to enter the peace process.

Beilin's statement welcomed the lack of explicit mention in yesterday's declaration of the PLO.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said in London yesterday that a conference was the

Hospital strikers fight orders

By JUDY SIEGEL

Post Science and Health Reporter

The strike of 11,000 government hospital workers continued last night despite back-to-work orders and the imposition of stiff fines on four of their leaders by the Jerusalem District Labour Court.

The national council of the hospital administrative and maintenance workers took the government by surprise when they dismissed the four leaders against whom the orders were issued and chose new representatives.

The works committee's new leaders huddled with their lawyers late last night to consider their next step. The labour court could issue back-to-work orders against the new leaders today.

The four heads of the works committee — Ronnie Shalem, Moshe Avgush, Meir Cohen and Zvi Bendat — were each fined NIS250 for every hour beyond 8 p.m. that the workers remained off their jobs. The court also fined the works committee NIS 10,000 for damage to the state and court costs.

There was anger and shock in court when the judgment was announced. The 11,000 administrative and maintenance workers at 26 government general, geriatric and psychiatric hospitals said during the day that they would ignore any court orders. They even rebuffed President Chaim Herzog, whose rebuke of clerks and cleanup workers at Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals last week brought the strikers back after five days.

The four heads of the government hospital works committees failed to turn up at the labour court yesterday morning despite a summons to do so.

On the instructions of Attorney-General Yosef Harish, the court sent the police to round up the labour leaders. The four were transported to the court in a paddy wagon, after having been arrested by Tel Aviv police commander Nitzav-Mishne Arye Amit. He went to strike headquarters at Sheba Hospital personally in order to make the arrests.

Outside the Jerusalem court, the hospital workers received the four as heroes. Representatives of the hospital nurses, who have threatened to apply sanctions later this week, were present in court.

The strike caused a great deal of discomfort in the government hospitals. "I feel like a man who jumps off the Shalom Tower in Tel Aviv and when he falls past the 10th floor and is asked how he feels, says 'I'm still all right,'" explained Dr. Elitzur Hazani, director of Nahariya Hospital.

Only 10 per cent of the patients were released, and the burden of feeding and cleaning the patients and wards was left to the doctors, nurses, and volunteers.

Garbage quickly piled up in the hospitals, and clean laundry was rapidly used up.

Radio, TV licences will cost more

Television and radio licence fees are going up from NIS 125 to NIS 150, the Broadcasting Authority announced yesterday. The fee for car radios will be NIS 50.

The authority also disclosed that pending approval by the cabinet and the Knesset Finance Committee, its budget for fiscal 1987 will be NIS 134 million.

Compromise mooted on Soviet Jewish drop-outs

By BENNY MORRIS

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel and American Jewry yesterday took a step towards a possible compromise on the controversy over Soviet Jewish drop-outs and their status, in American eyes, as political refugees.

At a meeting between Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur and Carmi Schwartz, executive vice-president of the Council of Jewish Federations of the U.S. (CJS), Schwartz suggested, by way of example, that the emigres could come to Israel and be given the right to decide within six months whether they wish to remain in Israel or go to the U.S., with Washington enabling them to take up the benefits of "political refugee" status should they so desire.

Schwartz alternatively suggested that the Soviet Jews could be flown to Israel via Bucharest rather than Vienna, where the

drop-out rate has reached some 80-90 per cent. Israeli officials point out that there has been no dropping out among Romanian olim coming through Bucharest.

Tsur and Schwartz agreed that it is pointless for Israelis and Americans to debate the ideological points at issue and preferable to find a "technical solution."

The U.S. believes, as do many American Jewish leaders, that Soviet Jewish emigres should be allowed the right to choose between Israel and the U.S. as a final destination. Israel's position, as expressed recently by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Washington and by Tsur and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem, is that the emigres are not "refugees" because they leave Russia with visas for Israel and have a homeland to which to go.

The government on Sunday issued a statement calling upon the U.S. to withdraw the "political refugee" status currently

granted Soviet Jewish emigres.

It is understood that Tsur at yesterday's meeting did not reject any proposal for a "technical arrangement" that could solve the problem, but expressed a preference for the "Bucharest transit" idea over the "six-months-in-Israel" proposal. Tsur said that the second idea would necessitate setting up Hias (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) camps in Israel or at least placing the newly-arrived olim under the aegis of Hias for up to six months. During this period they would be able to decide whether they prefer Israel or the U.S.

Sources close to Tsur said that it is unclear to what extent Schwartz reflects mainstream U.S.-Jewish leadership thinking, or whether the Reagan administration would be amenable to such compromise arrangements. But the sources seemed to feel that the "technical solution" explored yesterday holds out a serious hope of resolving the controversy in the coming months.

Syrians battle Druse in Beirut

Post Middle East Staff and Agencies

BEIRUT — Syrian troops fought a gunbattle with defiant Druse militia in West Beirut's seaside Ein Mreisseh district yesterday in the first serious challenge to a 4,000-man Syrian force that rolled into the capital Sunday to end factional bloodletting. Four civilians died in the shootout, security sources said.

In other quarters of West Beirut, the Syrians occupied Druse, Shi'ite Amal and Hizbullah militia HQs and set up over 50 road blocks in their moves to gain control over the city's

Moslem sector.

The Syrian occupation of a Hizbullah (Party of God) garrison HQ marked the first time the pro-Iranian group had come under the thumb of Damascus since the Syrian deployment. Radio Monte Carlo reported that the Iranian foreign minister was due in Damascus yesterday evening, presumably to discuss events in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Cairo Radio broadcast a condemnation of the Syrian moves in West Beirut by the PLO's representative in Cairo Al-Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

Abdul Rahim said the Syrians' entry into Beirut "was carried out in agreement with Israel."

He said that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had agreed to the Syrian moves during his visit with U.S. officials in Washington. Abdul Rahim also said the Syrian goal was "to prevent the return of the PLO to Lebanon, to uproot the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, and to prevent PLO operations against Israeli settlements in the North."

In Beirut, Palestinian fighters fired bursts of machinegun fire to (Continued on Back Page)

'SLA ransacked Shi'ite village in S. Lebanon'

By DAVID RUDGE in Haifa and DAVID HOROVITZ in London

South Lebanon Army soldiers ransacked a Shi'ite village in South Lebanon last week while an IDF officer stood by and prevented UNIFIL troops from entering, according to The Times of London and UN sources.

The incident was first reported in The Times and was confirmed yesterday by UN sources.

The sources said the incident occurred last Wednesday during a SLA-IDF "raid and search" operation on the village of A-Tiri, about three kilometres north of the border kibbutz of Baram.

The operation followed a roadside bomb attack near the village of Hanin the previous day which killed three civilians — two of them women — and injured four others. The vic-

Fingers defendant as 'Ivan the Terrible'

Survivor confronts John Demjanjuk

By ERNIE MEYER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Pinhas Epstein, the first survivor of the Treblinka death camp to be called to the witness stand in the trial of John Demjanjuk for war crimes, yesterday identified the accused as Ivan the Terrible, the man who helped gas 870,000 Jews.

Epstein's identification of Demjanjuk as Ivan was the most dramatic moment of the trial so far. It was followed by persistent attempts by the defence to catch the witness in contradictions between his present testimony and that he had given at earlier war crimes trials. The defence apparently scored some minor points in this effort. Its cross-examination of Epstein continues today.

Epstein — tall, slim, with wavy dark blond hair — hardly looks as if he is almost 62. Just retired from his job as a heavy machinery operator with Solel Boneh, he answered questions confidently, as he described the arrival at Treblinka. His wife Zahava, who survived the war in Siberia, his son, two married daughters and several grandchildren were sitting in the second row of the Binyanei Ha'uma courtroom, occasionally giving him encouraging glances.

Presiding Justice Dov Levin allowed Epstein to testify sitting down, as prosecutor Michael Shaked had him tell his life story.

Epstein was born into a family of three sons and one daughter in Czesochawa, Poland, not far from the German border.

He described how the town's Jews were driven into a ghetto, and how on the day after Yom Kippur in 1942, Ukrainian SS men routed them out of their houses and pushed them into cattle cars.

In the crush he was separated from his parents, whom he never saw again. During the two-day trip he used his pocket knife to make a small opening between the wagon's planks, through which he saw the name Malkinia, the station before Treblinka.

He described the frightful scene as the Jews were driven out of the wagons at the camp, starving and thirsty. "There was a bathtub with water. But anyone who got near it was terribly beaten by the Ukrainians. I saw bodies with their heads split open," he said.

"An SS officer motioned to me to go to one side. My younger brother wanted to join me, but the SS man split his head open with the butt of his pistol. I never saw my brother again."

He described how he was told to take an old woman to the sick-bay — but on arrival there she was taken to the edge of a pit and shot. "I saw two babies at the bottom of that pit, in which a fire was burning. I can hear their whimpering to this day."



Treblinka survivor Pinhas Epstein identifies John Demjanjuk as Ivan the Terrible in court yesterday. (Y. Zakon/Media)

Epstein, then a lad of 17, was assigned to a group of prisoners whose duty it was to empty the gas chambers of victims and carry the bodies out to the burial pits.

He said he often saw the Ukrainian guard, whom he later learned was Ivan, nicknamed Grozny or "the Terrible."

"Ivan would push people into the gas chambers beating them with a pipe and slashing them with a bayonet or sword. He would split open heads, cut off ears, gouge out eyes and rip open the belly of pregnant women," Epstein said.

One day, when a new detachment of German SS men came to the camp and saw these things for the first time, one of them took Epstein and a friend aside to do work elsewhere. "I'm sure he did this to have an excuse not to watch these horrors," Epstein said.

Once a Jewish kapo (work gang member) was

accused of helping to plan an escape. Deputy camp commander Kurt Franz beat his head so that it was no longer recognizable as that of a human being. In his agony the victim then pointed to a group of about 20 fellow prisoners as his alleged co-conspirators. Ivan and other Ukrainian guards then massacred these men.

"Ivan would put the head of some of them between the straws of the barbed wire fence and then torture them to death," Epstein testified.

"In my job of carrying bodies to the pits I had an excellent view of Ivan and his associate, pushing people into the gas chamber. One night a group of prisoners broke out of the camp, but the men were soon recaptured, because their footsteps were easy to follow in the deep snow," Epstein said.

"They were brought back, shackled hand and foot. Ivan broke their arms and legs. He warned us that it would be our end if we tried to escape," Epstein testified.

"One day a girl of about 12 was taken out alive from the gas chamber. We took her aside and she cried for her mommy," Epstein continued. As he spoke, there was sobbing in the courtroom audience and Epstein almost broke down again himself. But then he went on to tell how Ivan the Terrible made one young prisoner take down his pants and have intercourse with the young girl. The youth lay down on the child, but there was no intercourse. The girl was then taken to a burial pit and shot.

"He did this to shame the girl," Epstein said. "I can't even compare him to an animal. If a wild beast has sated its appetite it stops; but Ivan was never sated."

Prosecutor Shaked asked Epstein to identify various buildings on the large diagram of the camp displayed on a stand in the courtroom, and on the photos to one side of the judges' bench. In the course of this Epstein pointed to the burial pits, which were later dug up again, so that the bodies could be burned. He told how he and a young companion were lowered into the pit to scoop up with their bare hands bones that the power shovel could not grab.

Demjanjuk sat impassively through this dramatic testimony — neither flushing nor turning pale as the words were translated into Ukrainian in his earphones.

Defence attorney Mark O'Connor started his cross-examination by asking Epstein whether he had recognized Demjanjuk on television as he walked off the plane at Ben-Gurion Airport last February.

Cypriot disclaimer in Mock letter affair

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON — A spokesman for the Cyprus High Commissioner here said yesterday that the copy of the purported Alois Mock letter, published by The Jerusalem Post two weeks ago, could not have been posted from the commission's London offices.

Although the post-mark on the envelope sent to The Post bore the identifying code of the commission's letter-franking machine, the letter was franked to the value of 21 and a half pence, a value to which the commission's machine cannot be set, spokesman Soterios Georgallis told The Post.

A spokesman for the Post Office confirmed that this was the case.

Ahavat Yisrael — Love for All of Israel, at Boys Town



At a recent Bar-mitzva celebration at Boys Town, Jerusalem, for pupils from Ethiopia, Raphael Avraham was presented with a tallit and siddur by Rabbi Alexander S. Lichner, the institution's founder, thereby exemplifying the love for all of Israel, shown at Boys Town.

Raphael's mother, who came from an immigrant absorption centre in Beersheba to share in the happy event, came to Israel with three children after a year in a refugee camp in Sudan.

Raphael's father, a farmer, is still in Ethiopia.

The one hundred and twenty-four youths from Ethiopia, in the 1,500 strong student body of Boys Town, receive a vocational and religious education. (Communicated)

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	23.2.87	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	-1	2	36	Clear
BREMEN	-1	2	37	Cloudy
BUDAPEST	2	7	30	Cloudy
CHICAGO	8	23	43	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-2	4	39	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	0	3	32	Cloudy
GENEVA	-3	7	39	Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	14	23	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	18	14	23	Cloudy
LONDON	3	7	32	Cloudy
MADRID	-2	13	28	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-1	19	15	Cloudy
NEW YORK	8	15	28	Cloudy
OSLO	1	6	32	Cloudy
PARIS	3	7	34	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	22	17	27	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	22	17	27	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	-4	3	34	Cloudy
TOKYO	3	7	34	Cloudy
VIENNA	-1	3	37	Cloudy
ZURICH	-1	3	36	Snow

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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Geneva: 38 Avenue St. 022-2622
Cargo: Ben Gurion Airport 03-9712151

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Cooler air will enter our region from noon today with a possibility of rain on Wednesday.

	Yesterday's	Today's
Jerusalem	22	19
Golan	22	19
Nahariya	22	19
Safed	39	11-16
Haifa Port	31	16-22
Tiberias	31	15-22
Nazareth	31	15-22
Afula	31	7-25
Shomron	25	10-23
Tel Aviv	63	12-22
B-G Airport	43	10-23
Jericho	21	11-28
Gaza	75	11-22
Beersheba	15	9-27
Eilat	12	12-30

Shamir addresses 'yordim'

By TOM TUGEND
Jerusalem Post Reporter

LOS ANGELES. — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Sunday told a mass meeting of 1,400 Israeli yordim now settled in Southern California, that lower taxes, the encouragement of private investments and fewer government restrictions had created a more liberal economic climate in Israel that was more hospitable to those choosing to return home to Israel.

This was the first time any visiting Israeli prime minister had ever addressed such a large gathering of yordim. The meeting came on the last day of Shamir's three-day visit to Los Angeles. He addressed a total of 7,000 people in six public meetings and an equal number of small private gatherings here.

VAT officials trigger violence in Beduin town

RAHAT (Itim). — Violent resistance broke out in this northern Negev Beduin town yesterday when Value Added Tax officials attempted to seize building materials belonging to a Beduin contractor whose property had been sequestered by court order.

The man, Alian al-Ubara of the el-Sana' tribe, had failed to pay NIS 352,000 in VAT that had been assessed against him. When his family and neighbours resisted the VAT officials, heavy police reinforcements were called up from Beersheba.

Al-Ubara's application to the court to suspend the seizure of his property was rejected by Judge Ruth Avida, who noted that he had made no attempt to pay the taxes he owed. Reinforced police units remained in town throughout the day.

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SLA

(Continued from Page One)

times, from the Christian village of D'bil, were on their way to work in Israel.

According to the UN sources, some 60 soldiers, mostly SLA troops, accompanied by an IDF officer, were involved in the raid on A-Tiri.

Nepalese Unifil troops deployed in the region sought permission to enter the village and monitor the operation but were refused by the IDF officer.

The SLA-IDF operation lasted about three hours during which time a number of houses were reportedly set ablaze.

Afterwards Unifil dispatched fire engines to the village which extinguished fires in nine homes, the sources said.

Villagers later complained of looting by the SLA soldiers. They also accused the SLA men of shooting livestock, including horses and donkeys, and of abducting the village mukhtar (leader), who reportedly has not yet returned.

The sources also confirmed that the IDF officer attempted to prevent SLA soldiers taking away what appeared to be stolen goods. Some property was apparently burned on the outskirts of the village.

Unifil subsequently lodged a protest with the IDF over the incident.

A-Tiri, described as a poor village, is in part of the security zone that overlaps with Unifil's area of

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

MK panel halts talks on UKM debt

By AVI TEMKIN and ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporters

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday interrupted its deliberations on the NIS 264 million debt rescheduling plan for the United Kibbutz Movement (UKM) after the Likud faction demanded that the Treasury produce detailed figures for each and every kibbutz.

The committee is scheduled to meet again today.

Yoram Aridor (Likud) told reporters that the Treasury had not had the UKM figures checked by one of its accountants.

Likud members on the committee later met with chairman Avraham Shapira and demanded that he return the UKM request to the Treasury. He refused, saying that to do so "would mean the virtual end of the national unity government."

Alignment members said after the meeting that the Likud was violating the accord between the two parties according to which aid to the UKM would be approved without delay.

Political observers said that it was not clear whether the Treasury would now be able to push through any of its requests, including funding for West Bank settlements which the Likud supports.

The Likud and the Alignment kept on sniping at each other yesterday, amid an exchange of mutual accusations.

The Likud Knesset faction met to rebuke the Alignment for having criticized Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during his recent official visit to the U.S.

The Likud said: "It would be more responsible of the Alignment, if it waited until Shamir got back."

The Likud said that the Alignment sought to stress its differences with the Likud because of internal party considerations.

For its part, the Alignment responded by accusing Shamir and the Likud of casting peace and the national interest to the winds, because of the internal power struggle inside the Herut wing of the Likud.

The Alignment said in a published statement: "What the Likud really cares about is the coming Herut conference, not the international conference."

Several speakers in the Alignment faction meeting advocated early elections.

One lone voice, urging caution, was that of Edna Solomon, a spokeswoman of the UKM, who is identified with Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. She said: "Elections would be premature."

Memorial held for Levinson

Jerusalem Post Reporter

KFAR SAVA. — Some 300 people representing the entire gamut of the Histadrut's economic leadership gathered at Beit Berl here yesterday to mark the third anniversary of the tragic death of former Bank Hapoalim head Ya'acov Levinson.

All the speakers praised his unique role in developing the labour movement's bank into a powerful financial institution which today ranks first among Israel's banks.

20 schools to be struck tomorrow

TEL AVIV. — The Secondary School Teachers Association will strike 20 junior and senior high schools tomorrow until 10 a.m. in solidarity with teachers in the Arab town of Umm el-Fahm who have been striking for the past six weeks over nonpayment of their last four monthly salaries.

The towns and villages affected by the strike are: Kafr Kassem, Jaljulia, Tayiba, Kalansawa, Tira, Yama Jat, Baka al-Gharbiye, Kafr Kara', Arara and (in the Jewish sector) Petah Tikva, Kfar Sava, Netanya and Hadera.

Split in Agency mooted over Dulzin controversy

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Jewish Agency board of governors is to reconvene this evening, amid talk of a possible split between the "Zionist" and Diaspora fund-raising factions over the call for Chairman Arye Dulzin's resignation.

Dulzin lashed out yesterday at the Diaspora leaders who have demanded his resignation. He told Israel Radio that he was the victim of a "blood libel" and a "pogrom that is designed to finish me off."

The Agency board is split between two groups — Israeli and Diaspora members of Zionist movements represented in the World Zionist Organization, and leaders of Diaspora fund-raising organizations.

Many of the Diaspora fund-raisers have been calling for Dulzin's resignation. They have said his role in the recent scandal over Ernest Japhet's severance pay from Bank Leumi had hurt the Agency and its fund-raising activities.

Dulzin, as head of the WZO, has served as governor of WZO-owned Jewish Colonial Trust. The Trust has a controlling interest in Leumi.

Dulzin claimed yesterday that the Zionist factions in the board were "behind" him. He said that the Zionist parties, "from Mapam to Herut," would boycott this evening's meeting unless the Diaspora leaders stop their campaign for his resignation.

Dulzin said the Diaspora leaders were "self-appointed wardens" (gabbaim) who "don't represent the Jewish people" and wished to seize control of the Agency.

The Zionist support of Dulzin appears to be far from unanimous. Sources in the Labour Zionist movement said that last Thursday Dulzin had tried to secure a vote of confidence from the World Zionist Organization executive. They said that

Split in Agency mooted over Dulzin controversy

when Labour, Mapam, the Reform movement and the Confederation faction announced that they would abstain. Dulzin decided not to put the motion to a vote.

The Labour sources said that they might also abstain in a possible board of governors vote.

Labour Zionist movement chairman Yehiel Leket said that the board of governors did not have the legal authority to dismiss Dulzin. He declined to say whether Labour would in fact boycott tonight's meeting.

Leket blasted Dulzin's "accusations and insults" against "people who are voluntarily devoting themselves" to Israel. He added that "if a solution is not found, the dynamics of a split will be set in motion."

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Hussein spurns Reagan invitation

U.S.-Jordan relations at low point

AMMAN (Reuters). - Jordan's relations with the U.S. have slumped in the wake of the Iran arms scandal, with King Hussein spurning an invitation from President Reagan to visit Washington.

The decision surprised diplomats in Amman who had expected that the King, a frequent visitor to the White House, would make his annual U.S. trip to press his campaign for an international Middle East peace conference.

King Hussein told the *Financial Times* of London last week he had not seen any manifestation of U.S. interest in resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute.

He said he felt no purpose would be served by accepting Reagan's invitation to go to Washington next month.

Jordan-U.S. relations came under strain more than a year ago when congressional and Israeli opposition forced Reagan to drop a \$1.9 billion arms package for Jordan.

Jordan, a military and financial client of the U.S., has since looked elsewhere for arms.

Relations suffered a further setback with the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, Jordan, a strong supporter of Iraq in its war with non-Arab Iran, says an Iranian victory will spell disaster for Arab moderates.

"The last thing that one ever expected was that the U.S. would augment the military machine of Iran," the king said in the interview. "The U.S. has lost its credibility in this area totally."

4,000 Iraqi casualties reported

Iran claims major gains in twin-pronged assaults

TEHERAN (AFP). - Iran yesterday claimed its advancing forces put 2,500 Iraqi troops out of action and took 150 prisoners in the latest push on Sunday of its offensive in southern Iraq.

The Iranian news Agency Ima added that another 1,500 Iraqi troops had been killed or wounded in a simultaneous drive in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Iraq yesterday threatened to break the two-week truce it announced last Thursday in air raids on cities, saying that Iran was not observing the conditions of the ceasefire. An army spokesman said Iran had shelled Basra on Sunday and yesterday, causing civilian casualties.

Ira, citing a military communiqué, said the latest breakthrough in the "Kerbala-5" offensive on Basra occurred west of the Jassim river, after three weeks of relative calm on the southern front which faces Iraq's second city.

The river, which flows into the Shatt al-Arab waterway some 12 km. east of Basra, has marked Iran's front line since the start of the offensive on January 8.

According to the communiqué, Iranian Revolutionary Guards partly decimated several enemy brigades, repelled counter-attacks and destroyed a "large number" of tanks and armoured vehicles in the drive. It added that an Iraqi plane had been shot down over the battlefield, the 78th downed since January 8.

In the assault on Iraqi Kurdistan, the communiqué said, Kurdish patriots combined with Revolutionary Guards to attack several military targets in the towns of Rawandiz and Dyana, both about 70 km. from the Iranian border. The headquarters of the Iraqi Fifth Army Corps at Dyana, as well as three cantonments and missile launch ramps, were destroyed.

At Rawanduz, the statement added, the targets were military installations and an electricity station.

German author-'guestworker' told to cut passages from book

DUESSELDORF. - A West German court yesterday ordered author Gunter Wallraff to delete two passages alleging malpractices at a Winterberg, ordered the removal of only two passages, saying the court was "not competent" to judge on the others.

Wallraff said after hearing that the passages accounted for less than one page of the book, and that he planned to add up to 30 pages of fresh material in the next edition.

"Ganz Unten" documents what Wallraff terms the "humiliation, hostility and hate" that confronted Ali in a variety of jobs and situations. It has sold more than two million copies and been translated into 20 languages since it appeared in 1985. (Reuters, AP)

Soviets formally recognize 'disgraced' author Pasternak

MOSCOW (Reuters). - The late Russian writer Boris Pasternak, renowned at home for his poetry and abroad for the novel *Doctor Zhivago*, has been rehabilitated by the Soviet Writers' Union nearly 30 years after his expulsion.

Felja Kuznetsov, head of the union's Moscow branch, announced the move in a report on recent reforms affecting Soviet literature and the arts. The report was published yesterday by the Communist Party newspaper *Moskovskaya Pravda*.

Pasternak was expelled from the Writers' Union following publication of *Doctor Zhivago* in the West in 1957 and his nomination as Nobel Laureate for literature the following year.

The novel, a broad panorama of Russian life in the years surrounding the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, was considered anti-Soviet and banned at home.

The author rejected his Nobel prize under intense pressure from officials and died in disgrace in 1960 at the age of 70.

But amid growing liberalization in the arts and the publication of previously banned works by numerous writers, the authorities announced this month that *Doctor Zhivago* would finally be published in the country where it was written.

A literary commission has been formed to review the whole body of Pasternak's work, including previously unpublished poetry, and moves are under way to turn his former *Dacha* (country house) outside Moscow into a museum.

Recognition has also been granted to other major Soviet writers formerly scorned by the authorities including the poet Nikolai Gumilyev, shot as a counter-revolutionary in 1921, and emigre writer Vladimir Nabokov, who was published in his homeland for the first time last year.

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Monday, March 2, 1987, at 4:30 p.m.
Chaperperson: Dr. David Bar-Gal, Director, Schwartz Programme
Remarks: Prof. David Mearov

Terror suspect Abdallah walks out of Paris courtroom

France rallies 35,000 guards as trial opens

PARIS (AFP). - Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, on trial here for complicity in the murders of an American and Israeli diplomat, walked out of the courtroom yesterday after denouncing "American imperialism" in Lebanon.

The trial of Abdallah, 36, alleged head of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Forces (Farl), opened as an unprecedented security net of some 35,000 police and troops was drawn tight around the courthouse, the city of Paris and throughout France in anticipation of terrorist reprisals.

A special seven-judge panel is hearing the case, replacing the customary jury trial under a 1986 law passed after previous terrorism cases ended in mistrials because of juror intimidation. The judges, whose names were secret until yesterday's opening session, are under around-the-clock police protection.

Abdallah pleaded innocent to the charges of complicity in the 1982 assassinations in Paris, in which the U.S. military attaché, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Ray, and Israeli diplomat Yaacov Bar-Simantov lost their lives, and in the attempted murder of Robert Homme, U.S. consul in Strasbourg.

Reading a prepared 30-minute statement to the court, already published in the French press last Friday, Abdallah said:

"If our people did not entrust me with participating in these anti-imperialist actions that you attribute to me, at least I have the honour to be accused of them by your court and to defend their legitimacy before the criminal legitimacy of executioners."

The arrest of Abdallah, a pro-Palestinian Lebanese Christian from northern Lebanon, sparked a wave of bombings in Paris last September that left 11 dead and 162 wounded.

As the trial approached, the French government received threats of new reprisals, and a spokesman for Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said the authorities were taking them "seriously."

Addressing the French government, the defendant said in his statement, "either there will be peace for our Arab people, for all our Arab people and on all Arab land, or there will be no peace for anyone, anywhere."

As French lawyer Georges Kleinman, representing Robert Homme as a civil party to the trial, began to address the court, Abdallah rose and said he was withdrawing from this courtroom. I leave to you the pleasure of listening to the executioner's representative as he vomits his hatred on the world's deprived."

The defendant then turned to his guards, asked that his handcuffs be replaced, and was escorted back to his cell.

The trial comes two days after one of France's biggest successes in its fight against terrorism with the arrest of four suspected leaders of Direct Action, a French group which has claimed responsibility for 80 bombings and two assassinations over the past five years.

The bearded Abdallah, now serving a four-year sentence after his arrest in October, 1984 and conviction on weapons charges and other counts, answered yesterday when asked his name: "Georges Ibrahim Abdallah. I am an Arab fighter."

His attorney, Jacques Vergès, insisted his client was innocent and told a radio station before the opening session that Abdallah might decide to stay away from the defendant's dock until the end of testimony on March 3.

Vergès said his client, a one-time teacher in Lebanon, was not a terrorist but an "Arab resistance member, an intellectual, a politician." The attorney said he was ready to use the trial as a forum to attack U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Justice Minister Alain Chalon said before the opening of proceedings yesterday that "the trial must be conducted calmly and safely whatever the attitude of Mr. Abdallah himself."

Hearings were adjourned to this afternoon.

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Democrat Gephardt running for President

ST LOUIS (Reuters). - Congressman Richard Gephardt, 46, yesterday became the first Democrat to formally enter the 1988 presidential race, promising to end what he called an era of disrespect for the law from the White House down.

"From the White House to Wall Street, we must get rid of the dangerous idea that the proper standard of conduct is whatever someone can get away with," the 46-year-old St. Louis native said in remarks prepared for his candidacy announcement.

In a reference to the diversion of funds from the Iran arms sales to U.S.-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua, Gephardt accused President Reagan's administration of ignoring a congressional ban on aid to the guerrillas.

Space freighter delivers supplies

MOSCOW (Reuters). - A Soviet space cargo transporter separated from the orbiting station Mir yesterday after delivering supplies from earth, the official Tass news agency reported.

It said the Progress-27 tanker-transporter had completed unloading equipment, fuel, water, food and air supplies for Mir, which has been manned by cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Laveikin since February 8.

Tass said last week the cargo transporter would burn up in the atmosphere after separating from Mir, with which it docked January 18.

Jordanian dies after heart transplant

AMMAN (Reuters). - A 23-year-old Jordanian who received a heart transplant last April has died after his body rejected the new organ, the official Jordanian news agency Petra reported yesterday.

But it said three other Jordanians with new hearts were doing well. They included Abdullah Mohammed Khalil, 25, who underwent the first heart transplant operation in the Arab world in August, 1985.

Palestine national fund to Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (Reuters). - The PLO has obtained approval from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to move the headquarters of the Palestine National Fund to Abu Dhabi from Amman, Palestinian sources said yesterday. The sources confirmed a report in Al-Bayan newspaper that the move, agreed during last month's visit to the UAE by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, would take place shortly.

New Mid-East air route

MANILA (AP). - Philippine Airlines will expand its Middle East operations by opening a twice-weekly service from Manila to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the firm announced yesterday.

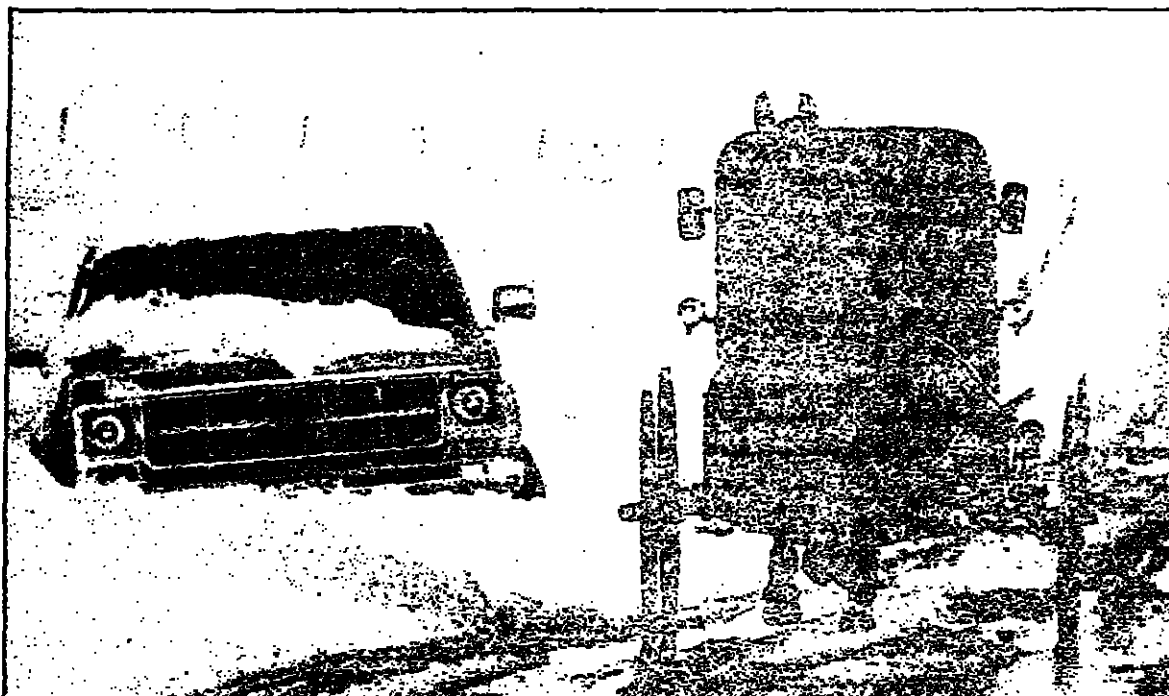
Some 200,000 Filipinos work in Saudi Arabia, 41 per cent of them in the Riyadh area.

Spanish farmers in lemon protest

MURCIA (Reuters). - Hundreds of Spanish farmers yesterday dumped crates of lemons in the streets of this southern city to protest against alleged "discrimination" by the European Community (EC) officials.

The action was called to protest against EC subsidies paid to lemon exporters from competitor countries, mainly Greece and Italy. The protest came as the EC raised its levy on Spanish lemons this week to 5.3 cents a kilo from 1.2 cents, because Spanish exporters were selling below recommended minimum prices.

DEMONS. - Demonology - whether spirits are always evil and what role belief in them plays in popular psychology - will be the main topic of the two-day Israel Anthropology Association conference that starts tomorrow at the Beit Hatefutsoth Diaspora Museum on the Tel Aviv University campus.



Twentieth century horsepower was rendered ineffective in many parts of the eastern U.S. as snowstorms raged on the weekend, bringing airports and schools to a standstill, leaving thousands without power, and wreaking havoc for commuters. The storm closed down the federal government in Washington for the third time in a month. An Amish buggy (above) yesterday found the going much easier than a pickup truck it passed in Lancaster County, Pa., where about 40 cm. of snow fell Saturday night. (Reuters)

Gates grilled over Irangate, but seen likely to be named next CIA head

WASHINGTON (Reuters). - Barring new revelations in the next two weeks, Robert Gates appears likely to be confirmed by the Senate as America's youngest spy chief despite reservations over his role in the Iran arms scandal.

Gates, 43, President Reagan's nominee to replace ailing William Casey as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), emerged battered but intact from two days of often stormy hearings in the Senate Intelligence Committee last week. (Casey resigned last month following brain surgery in December. Gates has been acting director since.)

"He was obviously walking a very tight line between trying not to offend the White House and yet reassuring Congress the same mistakes won't happen again," a committee aide said.

But the committee has scheduled another session with Gates later this month - this time behind closed doors - and a news report that appeared two days after his open testimony could give already sceptical senators additional ammunition.

The *Washington Post* reported Friday that in July 1985 Gates wrote a CIA paper proposing a U.S.-Egyptian attack on Libya. Gates, then head of CIA Intelligence Analysis, said the operation would help "redraw the map of north Africa."

The committee's secret session was also planned to fall after the release of the Tower Commission report next week.

The Tower panel, created by Reagan to investigate the White House National Security Council (NSC), is expected to shed damaging new light on the Irangate affair. But

senators are also interested in anything that may reveal about Gates.

The 24-year CIA veteran, under fire last week from Republicans as well as opposition Democrats who control the committee, was forced repeatedly to defend his actions since the Iran operation took shape in mid-1985.

During his testimony before the committee, Gates denied the agency had deliberately tried to mislead Congress by omitting key details from previous secret testimony to the intelligence panels.

He also said he regretted not having tried harder to convince his superiors that the intelligence panels should be notified of the covert program, as is required by law. Reagan, in January 1986 directive (NSC-1), is expected to shed damaging new light on the Irangate affair. But

Congress to probe reports of shredding

WASHINGTON (AP). - Congressional investigators will question the former secretary to Lt. Col. Oliver North, who reportedly helped him destroy White House records crucial to the Iran-Contra probe, a Senator said on Sunday.

The new report comes amid denials by officials that White House chief of staff Donald Regan planned to resign following bitter disputes with President Ronald Reagan's wife, Nancy, and criticism of his handling of the Iran affair.

The president entertained the nation's governors at a formal White House dinner Sunday and during a subsequent reception, asked about Regan's status, said he would have no comment "until the Tower Commission report" is out.

The three-member Tower panel, with few investigators and no subpoena power, is about to deliver what White House officials concede will be the harshest report yet on the affair. It is scheduled for release Thursday.

The report may for the first time shed light on the extent to which Regan was personally involved in the decision-making on the Iranian arms sales.

Former Republican senator John Tower, who heads the panel, had promised "a coldly objective" investigative effort. His commission interviewed scores of figures in the case, and its members flew to Paris to interview two key Middle-East middlemen in the arms deal: Adnan Khashoggi and Manucher Ghorbani.

The commission also interviewed Regan twice, and obtained from the White House a series of typewritten transcripts of the President's handwritten notes that Regan's lawyers considered "relevant" to the investigation. They also gained access to thousands of White House records.

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Struggle for reunification

Edith Frankel

THEY ARE fighting against time and some cases they will not win. When Elena Lifshitz, an only child, came to Israel with her young son and her grandmother in 1981, she immediately sent an official invitation to her parents, Alexander and Olivia Fiskin. She had no reason to believe that they would not follow. But Elena, 26, has now been in Jerusalem for five years and is still waiting for her parents' arrival.

Her older son writes to his grandparents — he still has recollections of them, as he was four when he left Moscow — but the little one, born here, has never even seen them. Both boys long for their grandparents. Ironically, this is a family with a double close connection: Elena, the daughter, is waiting for her parents, while her grandmother, Alexander Fiskin's mother, is waiting for her 61-year-old son.

They sit with the interviewer in an office in Jerusalem, people joined by a single concern — to be reunited with their parents.

Miriam Ainsbinder, highly articulate and delicately beautiful, has not seen her parents, Boris and Estrin Orlov, since 1973. They are now in their eighties. Her son was two when she and her husband left. Now he is over 15. Two more sons were born here who only know their grandparents through letters and on the telephone.

Miriam is the Orlov's only child. They have no other family. They suffer infirmities of old age, including Parkinson's disease. Refused on the grounds of "security" 10 years ago (six years after he had left the job which involved the security problem, now, to years since leaving his work, Orlov is still refused an exit visa. The last refusal came on January 14 of this year).

The question comes repeatedly to mind with each ensuing story of a divided family: for what reason could the Soviet regime be interested in keeping elderly parents away from their children? Why keep the Fisks, now both retired, from coming to live with their only child? Why prevent the Orlovs, in their 80s, from emigrating?

For years many Soviet immigrants to Israel have been working individually to bring out their own parents. There are now well over 100 such problems here. Each case has entailed endless letters, petitions, meetings with anyone who might help, the sending off of repeated invitations to parents left behind. Now, an organization called "Let Our Parents Go" has been formed under the auspices of the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry. It unites many of these offspring of refuseniks into a single body which will, it is hoped, be more effective as a pressure group.

Formed in January of this year, the committee represents the interests of parents with age from their fifties to 90 (Zalman Asperman) who have been waiting to come to Israel for as many as 15 years.

Soviet treatment of certain cases is often very puzzling to the outside observer and at times the only explanation for specific incidents seems to be wilful maliciousness. How else can one understand the refusal of the Soviet authorities to permit Yuri and Nellie Shpeizman to leave? Yuri suffers from lymphosarcoma and has gone through endless treatment during the last few years. Their only child, Margarita Levin, has been living in Israel since 1977. Nellie's father also lives in Israel. The combination of ill health and a very clear first-degree relationship would appear to be an irrefutable reason for the granting of an exit visa.

What about other cases of this kind? Vladimir and Izolda Tufeld have been given an official government rating of being seriously handicapped. As they are unproductive citizens — and recognized as such by law — and people in great need of care, why are they prevented from joining their only child, who lives in Israel? Why keep the Vaizblit family apart when Ilva Vaizblit suffers from multiple sclerosis, is classified as a first-degree invalid, and has been waiting to come to Israel since 1973?

Some of the saddest cases are those associated with people who have a long history of Jewish activity and of refusal. One of these is the distinguished scientist Alexander Lerner, who put in his first application to emigrate in 1971. His daughter, Sonia Lerner-Levin lives in Rehovot. Kim Fridman, a well-known Jewish activist, a former prisoner, and a refusenik for 15 years, has not seen his wife and daughter since 1976, nor has he ever seen his grandchildren, who were born in Israel.

Another case in point is that of Felix and Valentina Kochubievsky. They are the parents of two sons in Israel, one of whom, Alexander, is a key organizer of the Let Our Parents Go committee. The senior Kochubievsky has been a refusenik since 1978, was involved in Zionist activities in Novosibirsk and as a result ended up spending two and a half years in labour camps from 1982 to 1985. During the years of separation the grandparents have missed seeing their granddaughter growing up, the birth of a grandson, and the marriage of their younger son.

Those interested in helping the committee should contact the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry: 03-338267 or 03-338270.

Dr. Frankel is the Director of the Marjorie Mayrock Centre for Soviet and East European Research at the Hebrew University.

The Shpeizman case

RIYA LEVIN, of Jerusalem, recently had a telephone conversation with her mother and father in Leningrad. Yuri and Nellie Shpeizman (photo).

He has a very high fever, and he wants to go to the hospital but they won't let him. They say that they are waiting for him.

He is 55, an engineer and a refusenik for nine years. They were originally denied permission to emigrate because of state secrets. He was then applied to leave on medical grounds, but now it is because of state secrets. On January 14, 1987, said Levin. On January 14, 1987, said Levin. On January 14, 1987, said Levin.

Levin was allowed to emigrate in September 1977, she explained. Her parents followed, but was disappointed. She is in a very poor health, never leaves the house.



From top: The Fisks, Orlovs, Shpeizmans, Tufelds and Kochubievskys.

icapped. As they are unproductive citizens — and recognized as such by law — and people in great need of care, why are they prevented from joining their only child, who lives in Israel? Why keep the Vaizblit family apart when Ilva Vaizblit suffers from multiple sclerosis, is classified as a first-degree invalid, and has been waiting to come to Israel since 1973?

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"Where there is a problem of state secrets, we give them an opportunity to wait and those who, for five to ten years, have not been authorized to leave, will be allowed to join their families."

Soviet Communist Party Chairman Mikhail Gorbachev, Oct. 3, 1985.

MICHAEL Lieberman, a refusenik from Bendery, Moldavia, worked in a mineral-processing plant in northern Russia which was built with Finnish cooperation. The factory was open to visiting foreign delegations; in 1973 Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau visited the plant. But when, 10 years ago, Lieberman applied for an exit visa, he was denied one on the grounds of "regime considerations," a euphemism for security reasons. What was permissible for Trudeau and Finnish engineers to know was, at the same time, considered too classified for a Soviet Jew seeking to emigrate.

Eugene Grechanovsky, a mathematician and Hebrew teacher in Moscow, was refused an emigration visa in 1981 as a security risk. Grechanovsky, however, never had security clearance. And, with the exception of his father, whose security clearance expired in 1963, nor had anyone in his family been so designated.

Victor Fulmacht, a computer scientist from Moscow, has also been denied permission to leave Russia on the grounds of security reasons. It's true that Fulmacht had access to classified information, but only from

Security pretence

Harry Wall

1971-72. This, however, was the same information, dealing with nuclear weapons test, which the Soviets agreed to make available to the U.S. as part of an arms accord.

"Security clearance," a concept that evokes legitimate national interests in most countries, has been exploited by the Soviet regime as a pretext to deny Jews the chance to leave Russia. Since most Soviet Jews favour careers in science and technology, where security clearances are usually required, they are vulnerable to this ploy. "Until the early 1980s, the most frequent excuse for denying exit visas was the 'security argument'," says Yuri Stern, spokesman for the Soviet Jewry Information Centre in Jerusalem, which documents these cases.

It is estimated that over three hundred Jewish families have been refused exit visas on the grounds of "security". In the eyes of the Soviet authorities, it didn't matter that most of the Jewish scientists had been fired or demoted from their jobs and have had no contact with classified information for over a decade. Nor that Gorbachev, himself, had publicly declared that the security argument could only be applied for a limited period.

IN AN interview broadcast over French Television during his visit to Paris in October 1985, Gorbachev was asked how long a Soviet seeking to emigrate would have to wait until the security restrictions were lifted. "We will solve the problem this way," answered Gorbachev.

"Where there is a problem of state secrets, we give them an opportunity to wait and those who, for five or ten years, have not been authorized to leave, will be allowed to leave and join their families." Allowing for the least generous interpretation of that remark, Gorbachev's statement is clear: any Soviet Jew who has not had access to classified information for 10 years or more, has the right to leave Russia.

So why then aren't Victor Fulmacht and Michael Lieberman now in Israel. Or Vladimir Slepak, Alexander Joffe, and Leonid Zeliger, all of whom have been refused exit visas for "security reasons" and each of whom has not had access to classified information for over a decade? Apparently, like many other statements made by Soviet leaders for Western consumption, Gorbachev's statement is devoid of credibility.

But many Soviet Jews are unwilling to let Gorbachev off the hook and have taken up a letter-writing campaign to hold him to his word. On September 15, 1986 Victor Fulmacht sent a letter to Gorbachev, explaining in detail how the "regime considerations" given as reason for his refusal were no longer valid. Fulmacht left his job in 1972; the classified material to which he had access has since been made part of the verification measures on nuclear explosions, and as such, can no longer be classified. The response from the Ovir emigration officials: permanent denial of an exit visa and refusal to further consider the Fulmacht file.

Friends of the Fulmachts took up his cause and argued the inconsistency of the Soviet response, particularly insofar as Soviet trustworthiness is concerned over any arms agreement. On the one hand, they say, the Soviets are ready to invite Western experts to their nuclear testing grounds in Central Asia and provide them with "complete information" about the means of verifying nuclear tests. At the same time, the Soviets consider knowledge of this information to be reason for permanently denying Fulmacht an exit visa.

ANOTHER "security" case that tests Soviet credibility is that of Dmitri Shiglik of Moscow. A refusenik since 1974, Shiglik was told that his work on a meteorological ship put him in contact with classified information. Yet a few years later, an agreement was signed between the U.S. and the USSR calling for

the free exchange of meteorological data. As long as Shiglik is not permitted to leave Russia, say Soviet Jewish activists, how can one believe the Soviets are fulfilling the meteorological pact?

If some of these cases reveal duplicious Soviet behaviour insofar as the free exchange of information is concerned, others reach the point of sheer absurdity. Witness the case of Irina Altshuler, age 74, whose visa application was rejected along with other members of her family, purportedly because her son, Uri Rodny, had access to classified information. This, despite Rodny never having had security clearance.

"Information that is considered classified in the Soviet Union is quite open here," says Victor Fluorov, a physicist who recently arrived in Israel from Moscow. (He and his wife, Inessa, the sister of cancer victim Mikhail Shirman, were permitted to leave Russia only after their case had become an international cause célèbre). "Many of those people assigned security status work in electronics factories that are about 20 years behind Japanese and American technology. So what do they have to reveal, except perhaps how backward the Soviets are," asks Fluorov, making a point that others believe is the real reason for not wanting scientists to leave the USSR.

The writer is the director of the Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Trapped in Siberia

Martin Gilbert

THE CITY of Novosibirsk lies four hours flying time east of Moscow, in the heart of Siberia. Twelve years ago news reached the West of several Jewish families there who had sought, and had been refused, their exit visas. One of these refuseniks, Moshe Soifer, first applied to leave 10 years ago. Permission was never granted. Six months ago, he died. Only after his death was his wife allowed to leave.

Another of the Novosibirsk refuseniks, Emanuel Fainberg, was only given permission to leave after his daughter, a teenager, had died of asthma. A third family, the Poltinnikovs, were so depressed by never getting permission to leave, that mother and daughter both committed suicide. "Only permission could have saved the situation," Natan Sharansky, then in labour camp, wrote to his mother when he heard the news "but," he added, "it came too late."

A fourth Novosibirsk family which fought for their right to leave was that of Cherna Goldort. In 1975 she was refused permission to leave for Israel on the grounds that she had been involved in secret work. This was not so. That same year, her eldest daughter Irina was allowed to go to Israel, where she has lived ever since.

Cherna and her daughter, Galina, trapped in Siberia, began to study Hebrew; on a rare visit to Moscow, Cherna met Ilya Essas, one of the most active young Hebrew teachers of that time, who was much impressed by her vivacity and by her determination to join her daughter in Israel.

In 1979 Cherna Goldort was summoned to an interview with General Slonetzky, a senior emigration department official in Novosibirsk, who told her: "You have one daughter in Israel and another with you. If you want to be with both of them, then let Galina go, and it will be easier for you to receive permission for yourself." Galina applied, and was allowed to leave. She too settled down in Israel. Her mother, applying once more as General Slonetzky had suggested, was yet again refused her exit visa.

Each year, Cherna Goldort received a further refusal. Each year, she travelled to Moscow to meet Ilya Essas and the other Hebrew teachers. At one moment she joined a small Hebrew-language circle in Novosibirsk itself, but it was soon broken up by the KGB. For Cherna as for so many Soviet Jews, learning Hebrew was to be a preliminary to living in the Jewish state; but even that was denied her. Novosibirsk

and Jerusalem are both in Asia — on the same continent. But as far as Cherna Goldort was concerned, they might have been on different planets.

For seven years now Cherna Goldort has been denied the right to join her two daughters, or to be with the grandchildren whose faces she knows only from photographs. The repeated rejections of her request to leave are a flagrant violation of the Helsinki Accords of 1975, in which the Soviet Union specifically accepted (as did Britain and the U.S.) the importance of speedy reunification of divided families.

TODAY, the denial of an exit visa to Cherna Goldort is in stark contrast to the world-wide mood of euphoria at the "new" Soviet approach to human rights, not to speak of the actual new Soviet emigration regulations of January 1, 1987, which give all divided families the right of reunification. Under these regulations, Cherna Goldort ought to have been among the 98 Soviet Jews allowed out this January (not 500 according to one senior Soviet spokesman).

A year ago, Cherna Goldort's teacher, Ilya Essas, was given permission to leave the Soviet Union, to join his parents in Israel. On his last day in Moscow, he saw Cherna, who had made the long journey in order to say goodbye to him. "She was tired, weary, a different woman," Essas recalled during a recent visit to London, at a public meeting organized by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Deputies.

"Cherna Goldort is one of those people who need immediate help from every point of view: people whose refusal is absolutely baseless today. Their secrets, if there ever were any, are obsolete. What is not obsolete is their health: they are getting older."

Cherna Goldort is one of more than nearly 2,000 Soviet Jews who have been refuseniks for 12 years and more. She is one of at least 300 divided families, each of whom, under the new Soviet regulations, should now be in Israel. She is also one of 100 mothers still living in the Soviet Union whose children, all living in Israel, have formed a new group with the name: "Let Our Parents Go!" Cherna Goldort, one of those parents, is 56 years old. Surely the time has come to end her torment, and to re-unite her with her daughters.

Compiled by Enid Wurtman from reports received by the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre, the London newsletter "Jews in the USSR," the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Israel Action, and other sources in the Soviet Union, Israel, England and the U.S. The dates indicate when the reports were received.

FEBRUARY 4
Mila Volvovskiy, the wife of Prisoner of Zion Leonid Volvovskiy, has sent an appeal to the International Physicians Commission for the Protection of Jewish Prisoners, Leonid, a mathematician and computer scientist, applied for a visa to Israel in 1974, whereupon he immediately lost his job and received a refusal.

FEBRUARY 5
Ekaterina (Katya) Glezman/Yuzefovich, 37, a refusenik since 1980, sent an appeal today to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urging him to accelerate and expedite exit visas for her family: "For seven years the authorities have illegally defied all human considerations by not permitting us to leave for Israel — allegedly because my husband, Leonid Yuzefovich, had access to 'state secrets' when he served in the army between 1972-1974 (even though the obligations he signed did not limit his leaving the USSR for a period exceeding three years). For the past 13 years, he didn't have access to any classified information... All my relatives, parents, brothers, grandmother, uncles and aunts live in Israel in despair because of the cruel separation from us. Three out of four of our children are known to my parents only through photographs... We reapplied in December 1986 for exit permits, but two months have passed without a response from Ovir (emigration office)."

From Jerusalem, Katya's father, Josef Glezman, has also sent an appeal to Gorbachev requesting assistance in granting exit visas to his daughter's family.
Katya and Leonid's children are Mark, 13, Miriam, 10, Ilana, 8 and Ariel, 4. Katya teaches Hebrew and has been active in the kindergarten for children of refuseniks. Letters to the Yuzefovich family can be sent to: USSR: Moscow 11397; Bratskaya 25/2133, Yuzefovich, Ekaterina and Leonid.

FEBRUARY 6
Fifty Jewish activists from different cities in the Soviet Union —

The news calendar

including Mikhail Salman, Leonid Kelbert, Tatyana Zushine, Yrgeny Lein, Yakov Rablenko, Bella Gulko, Vladimir Kislik, Abs Taratuta, Boris Kolman, Leonid Rokhlin, have petitioned the Supreme Soviet Court and the Prosecutor of the Moldavian Republic and the President of the Supreme Soviet on behalf of Alexander Kogan, a young religious Jew in Kishinev.

Kogan, an engineer, was fired from his job.
The refuseniks are distressed by the fact that a Jew was dismissed from his job and lost his wages for observing his religious beliefs "despite democratic freedoms and human rights affirmed by Soviet and international law," the petition said.
Kogan was left with no means of support at the very time his wife was expecting a baby. The activists urged the Kishinev court to rescind its decision.

FEBRUARY 11
Despite the fact that Mikhail Beizer is trying to re-unite with his son in Israel (whom he hasn't seen in more than seven years), in accordance with the amended emigration regulations which allow for reunification with immediate relatives, he once again received a refusal. The explanation given to Beizer by Ovir officials in Leningrad is that "his departure does not correspond with state interests."

Beizer, a refusenik since 1979, believes that he was given a "refusal forever" in negation of his elementary human rights.

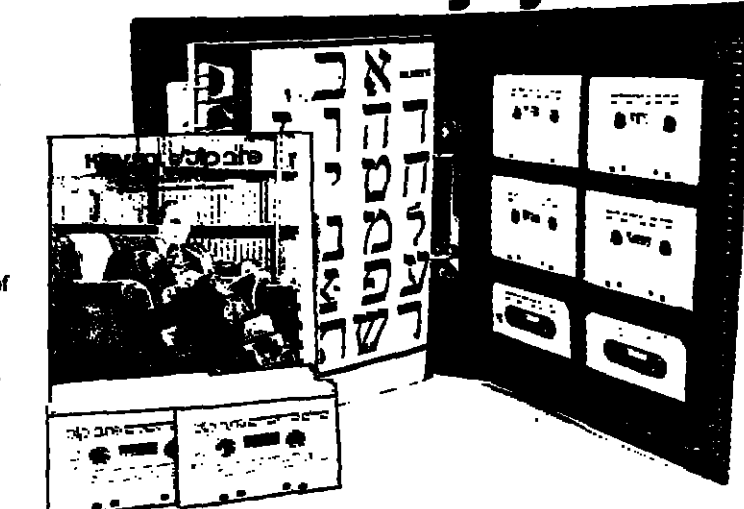
"I appeal for your help and support. I last saw my son when he was only two years old before he left for Israel." Write to: USSR, Leningrad 195273; Karpinskogo 13, apt. 7; Beizer Mikhail.

FEBRUARY 12
Today, the Moscow evening newspaper, *Vechernaya Moskva*, reported that Ovir announced that they are again reviewing all the cases of refuseniks who requested to leave the Soviet Union by virtue of family reunification. The paper anticipated that they will be given positive replies, with the exception of those "who won't be permitted to leave for reasons of state security" including: Vladimir Slepak, Alexander Lerner, Yuri Kochubievsky, Yulian Koffin, Natasha Khassina, Valery Shaffer, Lev Sud, Yakov Rablenko.

FEBRUARY 13
In January, leading Jewish activist Natasha Khassina's daughter Alona and her family received verbal permission to emigrate. But today, the deputy chief of Ovir rescinded permission. Natasha, meanwhile, was accused by police of "organizing public disorders" in Moscow. Police told her they got the information on her case from the KGB.

FEBRUARY 18
Despite reports from official Soviet sources that 500 refuseniks would be getting exit visas, only 80 Soviet Jews have reached Vienna so far this month.

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Exotic folklore

ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Mendi Rodan conducting, with Jeffrey Kahane, pianist. (Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, February 21.) Chamber: Espanso; Rachmaninoff; Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini; Ravel: Alborada del Gracioso; Gounod: Latin-American Symphonies.

WITH BOTH Spanish folklore (in the Chabrier) and Spanish-American (Morton Gould), the latest IPO Light Classical programme had more than its regular share of exotic percussion, sonar upheavals and other sound-colour effects. The Rachmaninoff and especially the Ravel balanced this with a more refined expression.

The selection was presented by Mendi Rodan with a sure hand and serious attitude, perhaps in the latter case, too much so. For the raw – and occasionally rough – jazziness of the Symphonies emerged rather self-consciously; the *Espanso*, too, might have gained from a greater rhythmic freedom.

In Ravel's subtle score, on the other hand, the problems of instrumental balance remained unsolved as the brass overpowered the rest time and again.

Pianist Jeffrey Kahane, who won the Rubinstein competition almost four years ago on the same stage, playing the same work under the same conductor, demonstrated admirable velocity and clarity of fingerwork. His was a temperamental reading, yet also a lean one, but what is Rachmaninoff without expansive lyric emotion and warm tone?

Lastly, a barb to those responsible for the programme notes. The conductor's biographical data were hopelessly mixed up, and the smug piece, entitled "Musical Chairs..." amounted to an insult to the IPO subscribers' intelligence.

ELI KAREV

Icelandic warmth

THE SOUND OF CHOIRS – Hamrahildur Ingólfsson (Tel Aviv Museum, February 18). Icelandic folk songs, songs by G.R. Sveinsson, A.H. Sveinsson, Loftsson, Sigurjónsson, A. Scarant, Bruckner, Morley, Nystedt and Jennifer.

ALTHOUGH THE Icelandic choir employed no stunning compositions and its performance never went beyond pleasant and dedicated singing, it nevertheless delivered a message. The music, as well as the singing, conveyed the warmth and sensitivity of the people of Iceland. As a result of their country's isolation, its folk songs have preserved a fascinating archaic quality and are mostly mournful and nostalgic in mood. Of special interest was "Iceland, Beloved Country," sung in parallel fifths like the early ninth century organum.

Contemporary Icelandic composers such as G.R. Sveinsson (b. 1933) and A.H. Sveinsson (born 1938) still seem unable to absorb the idiom of modern, continental choral music imaginatively enough, applying the so-called "New Choralism" in a rather simplistic and naive fashion.

The performance, however, revealed a great love of the music, moving identification and a touching zeal, on the choir's part, to draw inspiration and emotional strength from their conductor Miss Ingólfsson.

The second part of the concert presented international music. "Locus iste" by Bruckner elicited a mellow sound and the two last items, "Cry Out and Shout" by the Norwegian Knut Nystedt (born 1915) and "Warning to the Rich" by the Swede Thomas Jennefelt (born 1915), both considerably more powerful and original in expression than the songs of their Icelandic contemporaries, imbued the choir's singing with considerable forcefulness and excitement.

While no earth-shaking music or singing was produced we were nevertheless left feeling genuine kinship with these devoted choristers and their conductor who, through their music, brought us a message of goodwill and friendship.

BENJAMIN BAR-AM

New perspectives

Duo Piano Recital: Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir. (Jerusalem, Targ Music Centre, February 16.) Mozart: Fantasy in F minor K. 608 (piano four hands); Schubert: Liszt: "Wanderer Fantasy" Op. 15; Brahms: Waltzes Op. 39 (piano four hands); Ravel: "La Valse."

WERE Eden and Tamir one person they could not have brought off a more coordinated recital than this one. Years of working together have accustomed these two individually fine artists to meld into one musical personality when they so choose.

Whether seated at the same piano or facing each other in the standard wing-to-wing position, their precision is uncanny. The timing, dynamics, phrasing, sensitivity of interpretation, the easy give and take, all testify to thorough preparation between two like-minded musicians. They bring to their work a breadth of vision which makes the details of performance fit sequentially and logically into a unified, stylistically authentic recital.

This is of course a virtue in itself, and is made all the more important given our limited exposure to this repertoire: there is no other team like them on the local scene – few, indeed, anywhere.

For one listener, the most exciting part of this recital was the Brahms waltzes. This series of miniatures run the gamut of keyboard technique and waltz spirit alike. All were stated with Viennese *gemülichkeit* and the distinct aroma of paprika – hinting at Brahms – indeed Austria's – second

source of popular idiom. The miniatures were rendered beautifully, each one retaining its individual flavour and all blending into a whole-some unity.

The Mozart Fantasy provided a splendid opener, finely tuning the audience to the overall characteristics of four-handed music. The Liszt transcription of Schubert contained rather more of the former composer and less of the latter, this perhaps one reason for an overly aggressive approach by the duo. The work demanded attention rather than inviting it and tended, in parts, to lean heavily on the ear.

Ravel's "Valse," heard several weeks ago at the ISO, seemed more satisfying in its orchestral version. There are certain advantages to the two piano edition, primarily in the natural delineation of the keyboard's percussive quality, but Ravel was such a brilliant orchestrator that the work's ideas seemed to flow more naturally and easily in this form. In those frequent passages where – a recurring theme sneaks out of the overall texture to blossom before the listener, the results from the orchestra are simply more convincing. Nevertheless, new perspectives are definitely to be gained from this and other transcriptions, and it is to the credit of Eden and Tamir that one hears them at all, along with the impressive literature scored for this medium and best suited to it.

ARIEH LICHT

IT MAY NOT be common knowledge, but the way Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek tells it, the vote within the Zionist movement to establish a Jewish state would not have been carried without the crucial support of two women's organizations: the Women's International Zionist Organization and America's Hadassah.

The two organizations, the mayor remembers, rallied behind David Ben-Gurion, who later became the first prime minister of the Jewish State.

It is thus fitting that during this Ben-Gurion centennial year, the Federation of Women Zionists of Great Britain and Ireland (the mother organization of World Wizo) decided to hold its biennial conference in Jerusalem this week, bringing over 500 Wizo members and nearly 100 husbands.

In addition, in the next few days, some 2,000 Hadassah women and their families will begin to converge on the capital to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of their organization.

Between them, British Wizo and Hadassah have undoubtedly given Jerusalem's sagging tourism industry a much-needed shot in the arm. Hadassah, the largest Zionist organization in the world and one of the largest women's organizations in the U.S., has convened in Jerusalem before. For British Wizo, which happens to be the strongest Jewish organization in the United Kingdom, this is a first.

Speaking at the opening of the conference on Sunday night, President Chaim Herzog noted that in coming to Jerusalem British Wizo has, "set a most laudable precedent for itself and all British Zionist organizations," and he expressed the hope that such a precedent will become a habit.

If it is up to outgoing British Wizo chairman Brenda Katten or incoming chairman Gina Monty, this will definitely be the case.

At the close of her term office, Katten has left the organization with



Brenda Katten (Dan Landau)

a legacy. Among other things, she initiated amendments in the Wizo constitution which restricted the terms of office of executive and department heads to six years. Eventually, this limitation will be extended to all members of the executive, whether they hold portfolios or not, and regardless of whether they were elected, appointed or co-opted.

In Katten's view, this is the best way to guarantee an infusion of new blood and the development of new leadership within the organization.

"There is no better way to set an example than to do it yourself," she told *The Jerusalem Post* a few days prior to vacating the chair to Monty.

When she came into office in 1982, Katten saw as her primary task the gradual restructuring of the executive. One-third of its members held posts for life and the other two-thirds could theoretically have been re-elected to indefinite terms. After Katten's reforms, members of the

Setting a precedent

For the first time, the Federation of Women Zionists of Great Britain and Ireland is holding its biennial conference in Jerusalem, Greer Fay Cashman reports.



Gina Monty (Dan Landau)

executive who want to continue to be active after having done their six years of service can offer themselves as candidates but not for the offices they have vacated.

IF KATTEN has earned her place in Anglo-Zionist history as the pioneer of electoral reform, Monty, a teacher, will most likely earn hers for educational enrichment. In Britain, Wizo is in the forefront of organizations which advocate that Jewish education is a priority for survival.

Wizo has, since its early days, been involved with educational projects in Israel and on the home front. British Wizo is currently embarking on a new tack, aimed at keeping adolescent Jewish youth from the UK within the fold. Many of those who leave school at 16 without pursuing any form of higher education, are potential candidates for assimilation and intermarriage. Wizo believes. Their Jewish education is limited and so, as a consequence, is

their commitment to Jewish survival.

British Wizo, under Monty's leadership, will promote a study scheme whereby these young people will spend two years in Israel, and they will receive training at one of any number of Wizo vocational facilities. The details for the scheme are being worked out with Youth Aliya.

Presented in the right way, this Israel experience would attract many of Jewish youngsters from Britain who, for various reasons, would not be furthering their education at home, says Monty.

Monty does not plan at present to introduce any other sweeping changes. Observing that British Wizo has undertaken "a big step" under Katten's leadership, she believes that it will still take some time for the dust to settle and for Wizo members to come to terms with the new status quo.

Monty is, however, keen to increase membership, which currently

stands at 20,000, and is also aware of the need to make each member feel that she is responsible, "and not just a number in a book or a name in a computer."

Among the guests at the opening of this week's British Wizo conference was Kath Robinson, Lord Mayor of Manchester, who was spending a week here with a large delegation of her own constituents.

A Catholic, Robinson says she found it particularly meaningful to experience mass in this country. But what impressed her most was the frankness of Israelis "on sensitive issues." She had not expected such candour, especially with respect to questions relating to the Palestinians. She was returning to Manchester with "a very good feeling about Israel," and says she hopes to return soon with her husband and children.

BRITISH Wizo, which grew out of the Federation of Women Zionists of Great Britain and Ireland, was established in London in 1920 by a handful of women headed by founding president Rebecca Sieff, who held her office until her death in 1966, and by Vera Weizmann, the wife of Israel's first president.

Originally, Wizo was set up to provide milk for the babies of Jerusalem, but the scope of its activities exploded to encompass running day-care centres for children up to the age of five, women's centres, youth clubs, schools and golden age clubs.

While the world headquarters of Wizo remained in London only until Israel became a state, British Wizo has sponsored more projects here than any other branch.

Both Katten and Monty agree that prior to statehood, Zionism for most Jewish women in the Diaspora meant helping the women and children in Palestine.

Now, according to Katten, it is a two-way street: Whereas before "we were just interested in helping the physically deprived, we, the spiritually deprived, see Israel as our strength."

Earlier amniocentesis

A TOP obstetrician/gynecologist has recommended to the Health Ministry that the age of pregnant women who undergo amniocentesis to detect Down's Syndrome in the fetus be lowered from 37 to 35.

Prof. Yosef Schenker, head of obstetrics and gynecology at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem and chairman of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, recommends that the procedure be done on pregnant women 35 and over – at their own expense.

Every year, says Schenker, over 7,000 women over the age of 37 are pregnant. At this rate, checking their amniotic fluid for damaged genes can prevent the birth of 60 mentally retarded babies annually if the mother aborts after the test is performed.

Amniocentesis does pose some danger to the fetus, and a spontaneous abortion results in one to five per cent of the women who undergo the procedure.

The cost of amniocentesis is \$150 a patient and is paid for by the Health Ministry for all women over 37, whose chances of having a Down's baby are considerably higher than those of younger women.

If the age is lowered to 35, an additional 5,000 or so tests will have to be performed each year. Knowing full well that the Treasury will refuse to pay for this – even though the cost of maintaining retarded children in institutions is many times that – Schenker suggests that the women be asked to foot the bill.

Problems often arise with ultra-Orthodox and some modern Orthodox women who refuse to undergo abortions even if it is known that they have a defective fetus, and who tend to have children through their 40s. No law requires women to

undergo either the test or an abortion in such cases.

PSORIASIS sufferers who have no time to sit in the sun at the latest place on earth can now get treatment in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa.

Spas and hotels at the Dead Sea have long advertised the therapeutic benefits of sunning at their low altitude, where ultraviolet rays have been shown to be effective in treating psoriasis. (The latter is a chronic condition which produces scaly red patches over various parts of the body.)

The Phototherapeutic Institute, with the approval of the Health Ministry, operates out of Tel Aviv and is now opening branches in the other two main cities where it will offer treatment with 8,000-watt ultraviolet lamps. The treatment, which lasts 15 to 30 minutes, supposedly helps psoriasis victims as much as sitting in the Dead Sea sun, but is much faster.

The lamps have been approved by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration and have passed the inspection of the German Standards Institute. The Israel Health Ministry's research institute for environmental health has approved the devices for import and marketing here.

The Phototherapeutic Institute (head office in Beit Harofim, Rehovot, Tel Aviv) offers its services also to healthy people who want an all-year tan.

The Jerusalem branch will be opening at Beit Harofim in Rehovot Shmuel Hanagid, and its Haifa branch, at the Panorama Centre.



Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

A LEG BONE was flown in from the "bone bank" in Miami, Florida, and transplanted recently into a patient at Rothschild Hospital.

It was the first operation of its kind in Israel, and the medical team in Haifa – headed by Prof. David Mendes of Rothschild's orthopedics department – are pleased with the results.

Micha Freudenreich of Moshav Sedom Dvora, 69, had for years suffered from an eroded hip joint which shortened his leg and limited his movement. A metal replacement for the joint did not work well as the leg bone itself was diseased.

A frozen bone was sent from Miami and implanted with a new metal joint. It is believed that the "double operation" will restore the proper length of Freudenreich's leg and allow him to walk normally.

Six months ago, the Florida bone bank sent a bone to Rothschild for transplantation into a Sfarim resident whose bone was removed when it was found to be cancerous. That

patient is walking well on crutches, and hopes to be rid of them soon.

REGULAR massage of premature babies has been found to stimulate considerable weight gain, according to recent research.

Tiffany Field, a psychotherapist who founded the Psychiatric Institutes of America in Washington, D.C., and her colleagues studied 40 premature babies who had just been released from the intensive care unit and placed in the regular nursery. Twenty of the babies, according to a report in a recent *Psychology Today*, received special tactile and kinesthetic stimulation for three 15-minute periods at the beginning of three consecutive hours every morning for 10 days.

The babies were placed on their stomachs and gently stroked. Massage would proceed from the head and neck down to the feet. The infant was then rolled over for additional kinesthetic stimulation which involved flexing and extending each arm and leg, then both legs together.

The massaged babies gained 47 per cent more weight than others who were not stimulated, even though both groups had the same number of feedings per day and averaged the same food intake. The massaged infants were also more active and alert, and performed better on behavioural tests; their hospital stay was six days shorter on average than the non-massaged babies.

Field says she believes that massage improves the efficiency of the metabolism and of the gastrointes-

tinal system. While one would think that increased exercise would produce a weight loss, it did the opposite. In addition, the massage produces more "socially interactive" babies.

FOURTEEN new paramedics graduated recently from a course run by Magen David Adom in Tel Aviv, and were sent immediately to work in intensive cardiac care ambulances.

It was only the seventh such course established to fill an urgent need for such professionals. Paramedics is a new profession – a step above the training of resuscitator medics who have traditionally driven ambulances.

The paramedics carry more responsibility, and undergo 12 intensive months of training at emergency and intensive-care units in hospitals. Three new intensive cardiac care MDA units are opening up in Beer-sheva, the Haifa *krayot* and in Ashdod.

THE MAKERS of the Somatom, a biosynthetic growth hormone, made in Sweden and registered worldwide, have just received approval for sale in Israel by the Health Ministry.

The hormone is used in treating children whose growth is stunted. It is produced by recombination of DNA in *coli* bacteria, and is as effective as using a growth hormone taken from humans. Since it is synthetic, it also eliminates the danger of transferring diseases from human donors to recipients.

Somatom is now being given to 9,700 children in 50 countries around the world who lack growth hormones in their bodies. Such cases occur in one out of every 5,000 births.

In the West, many governments emphasize making retirement more attractive.

"By far, the dominant labour market trend over the past decade so far as older workers in western industrialized countries are concerned has been the strong push towards earlier retirement," says Charlotte Nusberg, editor of *Aging International*.

"This movement has been encouraged by public policy, corporate decision-making labour unions and even by older people themselves."

In 1970, according to figures she cites, three-quarters of American men between the ages of 60 and 64 were in the work force. The U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics reports that in 1986 there were only a few more than half: 54.9 per cent. There was also a decrease for women, from 36.4 per cent to 33.2 per cent.

The drop for Frenchmen was even greater: from 65.2 per cent in 1970 to 42.4 per cent in 1981.

(Associated Press)

The pension age dilemma

Carl Hartman/
Washington

Many non-professional West German workers take some form of early retirement in this way, usually from about age 55.

Last October, the United States became the first major industrial country to make it illegal for most businesses to make employees retire at any age. Previously, employers could force members of their staffs into retirement at the age of 70.

But many Americans still want to retire early. One government study estimates that the new provision will keep only about 200,000 Americans in the work force.

Canada also is moving to keep older people working. It has banned compulsory retirement in the civil service; and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government has promised an eventual ban in the banking, transport and communications businesses.

IN JAPAN, a cabinet-level council set up by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone last year urged raising the retirement age to 65. Noriko Yamamoto of the Labour Ministry told the *Associated Press* that within the next month, local governments are to contact companies that insist on retirement before 60 to advise them to raise the limits.

According to Japanese publications, about half of Japanese firms require retirement by age 60.

But retirement in Japan is less likely to be permanent than in other countries.

Masako Osako, a Japanese expert on older people in the work force, quotes a 1980 survey by the Japanese

Labour Ministry as finding only one man in 10, between 60 and 64, "neither working nor seeking to do so."

Three out of four Japanese companies rehire retired workers, or continue their employment contract beyond the official retirement age according to Osako. As a rule, such workers step down from their managerial positions to posts of lesser responsibility.

The Soviet Union offers strong incentives to continue working past the official retirement age: 35 for women and 60 for men. According to the International Labour Organization, many can get full pension and full pay. The Soviet Union has labour shortages in many industries.

The ILO says there have been few takers for a Soviet plan that increased pensions for people who delay retirement, because full pay plus full pension is more attractive.

On the market

and sports shops at a recommended price of NIS 8.90 for an 80ml. bottle.

A TOOTH PASTE containing TC-3 which, its manufacturers claim, minimizes the build-up of tartar on teeth, has been developed by Colgate.

MATA food Industries Ltd., under the Afical label, has come up with a sweetening tablet that leaves no after-taste. "Mantik Tak" comes in a push-button dispenser and is available for NIS 3.67 (600 tablets) from supermarkets and grocery stores.

DESIGNED especially for commercial use in bars, pubs, etc., the Telse

Mini Bar dishwasher differs from other models, with faster cycles which run on hot or cold water and a capacity of up to 40 cups and glasses.

Available from Telse International Ltd., importers of the Swedish Princess dishwasher, the Mini Bar costs NIS 1,650, VAT included, and delivery is guaranteed within a week.

TWO NEW herbal shampoos containing Vitamin E have been developed by Neco Chemicals Ltd. Softcare Mild Soapless Shampoo and Softcare Tearless Baby Shampoo (extra mild) don't rob hair of its natural oils, and both contain non-allergic fragrances. The soapless shampoo is available at a recommended price of NIS 4.98 (500cc.)

and the baby shampoo at NIS 4.47 (250cc.).

Oberson show for Hadassah

THE PUBLIC is invited to take a peek at the Oberson collection for spring and summer at a fashion show organized by Hadassah-Israel on Saturday night, February 28, 1987.

The event, which will include a raffle and on-the-spot illustrations by artist Yossi Stern, will take place at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel at 8:00 p.m. An entrance fee of NIS 30 will be charged, and all proceeds will go to the children's department of Hadassah Hospital.

Today is edited by Amy Leshman.

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SUNFROST has a new product – quick-cooking rice with fresh vegetables. The vegetables are frozen by a new modern process that retains their nutritional value.

Sunfrost rice products come in four varieties: Spanish rice, French rice, Chinese rice, and rice with lentils.

J. MALKI Products are now selling Dead Sea Natural Sulphur Soap made from minerals and pharmaceutical vegetable oils. The soap moistens the skin with a thin layer of oils from olives, coconut and palm. Dead Sea soap is effective in treating pimples, the makers claim. This new soap is now on sale for NIS 3.20.

CARELINE has come out with a new line of products under the

"Amavero" ("I love you" in Latin) name, available in deodorant, body lotion and perfume packaged in special gift packages and spray bottles of varying sizes.

The fragrances of roses, jasmine and citrus blossoms are mixed in the Amavero products, which are available at local pharmacies and perfumeries around the country.

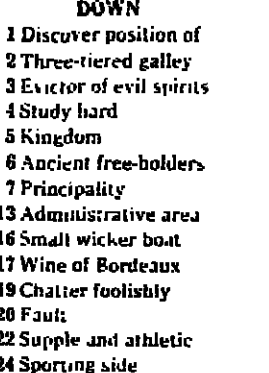
A NEW anti-perspirant developed to combat sweaty palms is being marketed in Israel by Hietis Ltd.

Applied before strenuous activity – tennis, basketball, etc. – "Dry-up" will ensure clean, sweat-free hands for up to two hours, according to the manufacturer. Dry-up is available from chemists, department stores

סניאמן האל

The key to growth lies with exports

Even though such promises were not forthcoming, markets may well be impressed. In the short-term at least, with the commitments made here and there.



country in addition:

Ashdod 41333	Jerusalem *523133
Ashkelon 23333	Kiron 344442
Bat Yam *5511111	Kiryat Shmona *4334
Beersheba 74767	Nahariya *923333
Bnei Brak 44444	Netanya *722222

The communique spelled out the relatively strong accord on exchange rates was linked to the economic measures. "Exchange rate changes... have now brought the

The Free Democrats, who increased their vote in recent elections, have pressed their senior partners in the governing centre-right coalition

Even though such promises were not forthcoming, markets may well be impressed. In the short-term at least, with the commitments made here and there.

MARKET PLACE

NIGEL HAWKES

An endless pit

Investors in the proposed Channel tunnel to link Britain and France are unimpressed by the prospects. The chairman of the British half of the tunnel wants to quit, and the search for a successor has been greeted with a series of flat rejections.

To make matters worse, another former chairman of the company, one-time British diplomat Sir Nicholas Henderson, has written a book which details a long series of boardroom disputes which have divided the company from the beginning.

With the next financial deadline—the raising of \$1.1 billion from financial institutions—just a few months away, the question marks are beginning to gather around the tunnel project. Launched just over a year ago amid much fanfare by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Francois Mitterrand, the tunnel was intended at last to establish a permanent link between the two countries.

The difficulty is that neither government is willing to put any public money into the scheme, and it is seen by the money men of the City of London as a doubtful prospect. It combines the risk of a venture capital project with the financial return of a utility—hardly an appetizing combination.

The bulk of the \$9b. cost of the project will come from banks, but their participation is dependent on the tunnel company raising the \$1.7b. first. Last year the company had a desperate struggle to even find \$300m. in its first public offering, and was only rescued when the governor of the Bank of England stepped in at the last moment and bailed institutions into subscribing.

After that near-disaster, a leading businessman, Sir Nigel Brookes, was brought in as a director to try to restore the company's credibility. But Brookes had been heavily involved with a rival scheme and is chairman of the construction group Trafalgar House, so board members representing other civil engineering companies suspected him of wanting to steal some of the work for his own concern.

Far from taking over from chairman Lord Pennock, as the Bank of England intended, Brookes found that he could not command the support of his fellow directors. And despite strenuous denials from the company, it soon became clear that Pennock, too, lacked the full confidence of the board. Now he wants to go, but finding a top man to succeed him is proving impossible.

Virtually every known name in British industry has now been touted as a possible chairman but nobody seems to want it.

The increasingly desperate search for a chairman who can inject some life into the company and inspire the City to come up with the \$1.1b. in July indicates just how serious the situation is.

Sir Nicholas's undiplomatic memoirs (published under the title *Channels and Tunnels*) portray a picture of constant feuding within the consortium, now called Eurotunnel, of which he was persuaded to take the chair while it was still picking for the job.

Board meetings, he says, were chaotic. The five construction companies in the consortium—Costain, Tarmac, Balfour Beatty, Wimpey and Taylor Woodrow—argued with one another constantly.

Outside the consortium similar differences existed. Thatcher was all for the project, says Sir Nicholas, but Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe was against it and decided to be the low.

Finally, Eurotunnel won the job as the result of a compromise: Neither government really wanted it, but the French wanted idea of a bridge plus tunnel (put forward by Brookes' group) and the British lost confidence in a rival tunnel, called Euroroute. In the end, Eurotunnel was the least bad option.

All might have been well if Eurotunnel had found a charismatic chairman to enthuse the City and knock some heads together in the boardroom. Lord Pennock was not that man, and it will now call for a superhuman effort to project Eurotunnel as a shining prospect before the July deadline is upon it.

The financial markets have been spoiled by a series of privatizations which offer high rewards with virtually no risks at all. Persuading them to put their money into a hole in the ground, with no return likely for at least five years and the danger that unexpected difficulties will wreck the whole project is going to be a thankless task. And that, it seems, is why the cream of British industry is showing a rare unanimity in turning it down. (London Observer Service)

Innovative plan to spur exports unveiled

By KEN SCHACHTER

For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. — A unique strategic plan to encourage exports and end Israel's dependence on non-military foreign aid was unveiled yesterday by a group of analysts, consultants and business experts.

The \$300,000 study, originated by Vice Premier Shimon Peres when he was prime minister, is designed to foster economic growth by prodding domestic producers to turn their attentions toward the global market.

At a Tel Aviv press conference, the report was outlined by Yair Aharoni, executive director of the Jerusalem Institute of Management (JIM), which provided half the funding. The rest was provided by the Operation Independence Task Force, the Manufacturers Association, Hevrat Ha'Ovdim and the government.

What distinguishes this report, Aharoni said, was its examination not only of macroeconomic theory, but of actual market conditions. The paper also sought to develop a business strategy as opposed to an economic strategy.

"A lot of what has to be done will be done by business," Aharoni said. "They export, not the government."

He said Israeli companies must aggressively enter the export market and not be content to simply manu-

facture products offered as alternatives to imported goods.

"It's a matter of creating real motivation and getting businesses to change their behaviour," he said. "The government must create an environment in which exports will be more profitable than import substitution. Some of the biggest companies in Israel are import substitutes."

Also contributing to the report were Dr. Sy Tilles, former vice president of Boston Consulting Group, and Ira Magaziner, head of Telesis consultants. JIM is a non-profit group formed to offer research to top managers in Israel.

Aharoni said the preliminary report has been greeted "enthusiastically" in the business community and a joint committee will be formed to examine the plan, including representatives from the Manufacturers Association, the Bank of Israel, the Task Force and the Histadrut.

The report's goal is to increase exports of goods to \$14.5 billion by 1995, not counting the service economy and production from the territories. It's estimated that this would cover Israel's balance of payments deficit.

The version released yesterday was a summary of the complete report to be published in a few weeks.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Plan approved to sell 18% of state-owned firm

The ministerial committee set up to oversee the sale of state-owned companies on Sunday approved a plan to issue shares and options in the Jerusalem Economic Corp. (JEC). It will be the first of several government concerns slated to be sold off under the programme.

Under the proposal approved by the committee, the government will sell NIS 7.3 million in four-year options for JEC shares. In the second stage, another NIS 7.3m. in shares will be offered to the public. Both issues will be made through the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The funds from the two offerings, which will give shareholders an 18 per cent stake in the company when the options are exercised, will be used to fund site-development work for factories and warehouses in the Jerusalem area.

The two offerings need approval from the Securities Authority before a date for the issues can be set.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY continued to falter in 1986, with a 9 per cent drop in building starts from the previous year and a 6 per cent overall decline in overall construction, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The biggest decline occurred in the public sector, where there was a 21 per cent drop in building from 1985 and a 39 per cent drop from 1984 levels.

The total number of flats being built last year, came to 48,000, compared with 51,000 in 1985. Non residential building was down 17 per cent from 1985 and 40 per cent from 1984.

Building completions in 1986 also declined substantially, with a 13 per cent drop from 1985 and a 22 per cent decline from 1984.

BANK LEUMI SWITZERLAND turned in a profit equivalent to \$6.5 million in 1986, compared with \$5.6m. the year before, the Geneva-based subsidiary said yesterday.

Nevertheless, the bank said it would keep its dividend at 11 per cent.

The bank's turnover came to \$377m., a slight drop from a year earlier following the drop in the value of the dollar.

ISRAEL AND ITALY have agreed to pursue joint projects in desalination; machine tools, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, communications and medical equipment, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday.

Under the agreement, negotiated by Industry Minister Ariel Sharon and the director-general of Italy's Ministry of Industry, Vittorio Barattini, delegations from the two countries will meet next month in Rome to develop concrete plans for the ventures.

Israel's exports to Italy totalled \$252 million in 1986, compared with imports of \$412m. Over the last five years, Israel has imported \$2.4-billion worth of goods from Italy and exported \$1.3b.

FIRMS THAT RECYCLE waste material will be granted "approved industry" status regardless of whether they export or not, the Investment Authority said yesterday. Approved industries receive tax exemptions.

The Investment Authority, part of the Industry and Trade Ministry, made its decision based on recommendations of an interministerial committee set up by Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi to study the subject of waste recycling in Israel.



Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon gets an explanation on stock production from general manager Haim Rozov while touring the Gavor Sabrina Ltd. factory in Netanya. Gavor Sabrina exported \$30 million of its \$50m. total sales in 1986, Rozov said.

Elron has 9-month profit

By SIMON LOUISSE

TEL AVIV. — Elron Electronic Industries Ltd. yesterday announced a net profit of \$212,000 for the three months to December 31. For the nine months profit was \$2.4m., compared with a loss of \$18.7m. last year for the same period.

Total revenue for the quarter was up \$1.4m. at \$41.2m. and for the nine-month period the increase was \$4.6m. at \$20.4m.

Net income was \$4.5, down from \$5m. a year earlier for the quarter and \$12.8m. down from \$14.9m. for the nine months.

The result was affected by a \$1.1m. provision for taxes in the quarter, compared with zero last year, and \$4.7m. over the nine months, and the continuing troubles at Elscint Ltd., in which Elron has a 30 per cent stake.

A provision of \$3m. had been set aside as a cash advance for Elscint during the first six months and this

was increased during the last quarter to \$6m. Elron has agreed to invest an additional \$20m. in Elscint as part of the restructuring agreement between Elron, the banks and the government.

This is in addition to the \$24.4m. write-off last year, which was the principal cause of Elron's loss. The \$20m. is in the form of convertible preferred stock.

Elron's chairman and chief executive officer, Uzia Galil told *The Jerusalem Post* that in spite of the problems at Elscint and the heavy tax paid as a result of Elbit Computer Ltd.'s profit, the fact that the company could produce such a profit was a dramatic turnaround from last year.

This performance was mainly the result of two things: a strong performance by 66 per cent-owned Elbit and a number of new successful ventures such as Elcan and Elor Optronics Ltd. Galil said.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:

General Share Index	121.36 -0.15%
Non-Bank Index	146.33 -0.27%
Arrangement	105.20 -0.03%
Insurance	128.11 -1.03%
Commerce, Services	136.55 +0.13%
Real Estate	136.84 -0.23%
Industrials	147.99 -0.03%
Textiles	124.55 -0.57%
Metals	134.80 -0.09%
Chemicals	153.22 +0.41%
Maritime	125.35 -1.74%
Industrial Invest.	145.42 -0.57%
Investment Cos.	178.06 +1.74%
General Bond Index	108.70 -0.01%
Index-linked Bonds	110.28 -0.01%
Fully-linked	111.34 -0.08%
Partially-linked	110.63 +0.10%
Dollar-linked Bonds	105.35 -0.06%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	107.88 +0.12%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	108.73 +0.01%
Long-term 5+ yrs	111.04 -0.21%

Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 24,952,400
Arrangement	NIS 3,395,600
Non-bank	NIS 21,556,800
Bonds - total	NIS 3,681,700
Index-linked	NIS 2,294,100
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,387,900
Treasury Bills	NIS 12,228,400
Share Movements:	
Advances of which 5%+ "buyers only"	136 (182)
Declines of which 5%+ "sellers only"	21 (44)
Unchanged	150 (163)
Trading Halt	30 (19)
Unchanged	0 (1)
Trading Halt	112 (105)
Trading Halt	24 (32)

4.25% fully-linked	Mixed to 1%
80% linked	Stable
Double-linked:	Generally falls to 1%
Dollar-linked:	
Admon	Slightly rises
Rimon	Stable
Gilboa	Rises to 1%
For. Curr.	
denominated	Stable
Treasury Bills	29.75-32.30%
(annual yield)	

Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	17.82%
Union 0.1	17.82%
Discount A	17.90%
Mizrahi r.	17.88%
General A	17.81%
Leumi stock	17.84%
Fin. Trade 1	17.70%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
			000NIS change

Commercial Banks	
(part of "arrangement")	
Leumi	-1.2
General non-arr.	24789 251
First Int'l	5060 3480
IBI	6439 3718 -0.3

Commercial Banks	
(part of "arrangement")	
IDB	1241 -0.0
Union 0.1	69590 172 -0.0
Discount	113010 158 -0.1
Mizrahi	36480 314 -
Hapoalim r	80190 1212 -
General A	153920 8 +0.0
Leumi 0.1	38245 2590 -0.0
Fin. Trade	50850 -

Mortgage Banks	
Leumi Mort. r	10650 435 -1.0
Dev. Mort.	4482 1205 -
Mizrahi r	4374 3045 -10.0
Tafelhot r	23851 40 -
Merav r	8280 215 -10.0

Financial Institutions	
Agri C	no trading
Ind. Dev. DO	no trading
Clal Lending 0.1	27350 32 -0.5

Insurance	
Ararat 0.1 r	1680 1056 -3.5
Hasanah r	410 35488 -
Phoenix 0.1	1062 12083 -5.1
Hahamim r	7485 201 -
Manorah 1	2860 320 +1.1
Sahar r	7830 2543 +0.8
Zion Hold. 1	12250 38 +8.9

Trade & Services	
Meir Ezra	1485 2433 -
Supersol 2	11060 2048 -5.1
Delek r	5700 6771 -
Lightstar	20000 86 -
Cold Storage	1080 1753 +0.1
Dan Hotels	1740 1101 +8.6
Yarden Hotel	2840 274 -2.1
Hilon 1	no trading
Team 1	1050 2803 +1.9

Real Estate, Building and Agriculture	
Azorn	1153 8645 +0.7
Elion	517 10720 -
Africa Isr. 0.1	53410 408 -0.7
Darlene	8910 1011 +0.7
Prop. & Bldg.	3763 3082 +1.3
Bayside 0.1	4900 2607 -
ILDC r	85000 137 -0.7
Rasoco r	6773 b.o. +5.0
Mehadrin	5200 880 -1.8
Hadarim	2145 5873 -3.2

Industrials	
Dubek b	6690 3908 -
Pr-Ze 1	no trading
Surfrost	16800 281 -
Elite	24300 1263 -0.6
Adger	855 1317 -2.3
Argumen r	16700 54 +3.7
Datta G 1	4380 1596 -
Maquetone 1	4895 638 -0.3
Eagle 1	26900 57 -
Polget	4540 903 -3.4
Schoellerline	18300 1296 +3.2
Rogosin	3090 1711 -6.4
Urdan 0.1 r	8766 1067 +1.0
Is. Can. Co. 1	4450 3941 -1.1
Zion Books	2700 1529 -
Packer Steel	2290 73 -0.4
Elbit	612500 7 -

Elron	523000 85 -
Art	31900 184 +2.2
Clal Electronics	2650 2821 -
Spectronix 1	3080 3978 -0.6
T.A.T. 1	1828 2281 +6.3
Ackerstein 1	1299 7433 -3.1
Agan 5	21300 974 -
Alliance	2310 416 -
Dexter	3350 351 +4.7
Fertilizers	5400 98 +8.9
Haifa Chem.	977 30763 -
Teu r	12500 1977 -3.8
Dead Sea r	4120 18281 +2.0
Petrochem	635 32908 -5.1
Neca Chem.	7675 302 -
Frutaron	18070 159 -4.2
Hadera Paper	46100 153 -0.6
Central Trade	13600 1459 +4.2
Koor p	1240000 3 +3.3
Clal Inds.	3160 7538 -

Investment Companies	
IDB Dev. r	9190 3380 -
Ellern	5608 2639 -0.2
Alfa 1	338 21840 -
Gahelot	1542 304 -1.2
Israel Corp. 1	19850 1192 -
Wolfson 1 r	126800 -
Hapoalim Inv.	11200 1113 -7.0
Discount Invest.	5800 7610 -
Mizrahi Invest.	33500 56 +2.4
Clal 10	1900 7622 -
Lendeco 0.1	2800 137 +8.9
Pama 0.1	11752 44 +0.4

Oil Exploration	
Paz Oil Expl.	30570 36 -
J.O.E.L.	5280 1467 -4.0

Abbreviations:	
s.o. sellers only	b.o. buyers only
b. bearer	r. registered

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

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Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	Last Updated	Tapas	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
LEUMI	23.2	10-25.50%	11-26.00%	15-30.50%
HAPOALIM	13.2	10-24.00%	11-24.50%	15-27.00%
DISCOUNT	17.12	7-16.00%	8-16.20%	14-18.50%
MIZRAHI	1.12	8-17%	6-17.50%	6-19.50%
FIRST INT'L	12.2	17-25.00%	18-25-26.50%	23-30.00%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (February 23)

	MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	1	5.750	5.750	5.750
STG (£100,000 pounds)	1	5.750	5.500	5.625
DMK (100,000 marks)	1	3.125	3.250	3.250
SPR (50,000 francs)	1	2.875	2.875	2.800
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	1	2.625	2.500	2.500

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (February

THE JERUSALEM POST

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POB 20126 (61301) Telephone 524222, 528231-4 (56 lines) Fax 528232, HATIFA 16 Rehov
Nordau, Hadar Hacarmel, POB 4810 (31047) Telephone 645444 Fax 645446. Published
daily, except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by
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Going too far

IT is time to come to the aid of Israel's bankers. The Bejski commission last year effectively threw the then bank chiefs out of their jobs for their role in the bank-share manipulation policy which collapsed so thunderously in October 1983.

That was their due. Though it must be noted that some resigned willingly, some only after immense public pressure, and some, just below the very top level, were enabled to continue. That, in the case of Bank Leumi's Ernest Japhet, exorbitant severance pay was granted, amounted to a separate scandal which should not, however, cloud perspective on a new chapter now beginning.

The commission found that the bankers had not only mishandled their public trust, but also violated the law. This finding set the State Attorney's office in motion. Last week, this office suggested to the Attorney General that the deposed bankers should, therefore, be liable to criminal proceedings.

Dutifully, Attorney General Harish, of GSS pardon fame, instructed the police to commence investigation.

The specific targets of this police action are the men already publicly pilloried and humiliated, the former chiefs of Hapoalim, Leumi, Mizrahi and Discount. Excluded from the Attorney General's edict are the public officials, like the former finance ministers and Bank of Israel governors and examiners, who were for years party to the manipulation policy.

But let there be no mistake - the manipulation of the bank shares was a national policy, executed by the banks. It was not a secret scheme, nor was it designed to line the pockets of the bankers, as such a scam would be in a privatized economy.

Now it is one thing for the bankers to pay for the ultimate collapse of the scheme with their jobs and reputations. It is quite another to make them criminally culpable for a policy that was sanctioned by the institutions of the state. Such victimization violates the sense of natural justice. It is equivalent to imposing a new law retroactively.

Where, after all, were the attorney generals and the police when the manipulation festival was at its height, distributing unearned income to all and sundry? Then too, presumably, law was being violated. But, like the Kanowitz law on noise pollution, it was not enforced, because the state sanctioned, in fact, encouraged, the procedure.

To uncock criminal proceedings now is a pure and simple case of primitive scape-goating, letting the blood of a few for the sins of the many.

Question mark remains

THE well-oiled public relations mechanism of the Lavi lobby and the Israel Aircraft Industries is at it again. It has seized on the finding of the U.S. General Accounting Office that the Lavi will cost \$17.8 million per plane as a vindication of its own estimates.

That finding is, it is true, \$4.3 million less than the estimate of the U.S. Defence Department, the plane's implacable foe. But it is also \$3.3 million higher than the IAI estimate. So if self congratulation is in order, it should be tempered. And in any case the true unit cost of the plane would depend upon how many are built.

The real point of contention between the advocates and critics of the project in the defence establishment is not the unit estimates, but whether Israel can or should divert the huge outlays involved from other defence and defence development needs.

The unit cost estimates are largely irrelevant to that debate. Moreover, the choices involved in that debate cannot be delivered to public scrutiny without compromising security.

The IAI has taken advantage of these constraints by selective partisan disclosures. It is time to desist. The subject is too serious for such gimmickry.

EEC

(Continued from Page One)

dent, is expected in the coming weeks to take initiatives in keeping with yesterday's statement, diplomatic sources in Brussels said.

The EEC, the statement said, would be prepared to play its part respecting such a conference, but it could not take the place of the parties directly involved.

The ministers stressed that, in addition to the parties directly involved in the Middle East conflict, other parties could also make a direct and positive contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace and to the region's economic and special development.

The European Community also confirmed that Europe's backing of an international conference under UN aegis followed Belgium's receipt last week of "diplomatic messages" from several Middle Eastern and non-Middle Eastern countries. The messages stressed that yesterday's meeting was seen as "very important".

Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans disclosed that one of these messages came from the Soviet Union and that he would give the European reply to the Soviet envoy in Brussels.

One diplomatic source said that the Venice Declaration remained the "EEC bible" and added that "one cannot modify the bible."

The EEC ministers also discussed the situation in Lebanon. Asked about the entry of Syrian troops into Beirut, Tindemans said that the situation was not sufficiently clear to warrant a judgement whether the Syrians were invited or not.

SYRIANS

(Continued from Page One)

stop hungry Palestinian refugees from leaving Shatilla camp yesterday, after the Shi'ite Amal militia said it had lifted a three-month siege. A Shi'ite cleric and a Palestinian woman who tried to enter the camp to persuade refugees to emerge were forced back by the gunfire.

Saudi Arabia last night called for an end to the attacks on the Palestinian camps in Beirut. In an implicit reference to Syria, the Saudis also said that immediate medical relief should be allowed to reach the camps.

Fusillades of machinegun fire and the blasts of rocket-propelled grenades boomed in West Beirut after nightfall. But it was not clear who was doing the shooting.

Pistol-wielding gunmen played cat-and-mouse with the heavily armed Syrians in the disputed Karakol Druse, Mar Elias and Zokak Blatt districts, witnesses reported.

Police said unidentified gunmen shot and wounded a Druse chemist shortly after he reopened his pharmacy in Mar Elias yesterday.

The shooting sparked a wave of tir-for-tat kidnappings. Police said at least four Druse and Shi'ites were snatched by gunmen.

The PLO taboo harms Israel

Asher Maniv

THE LABOUR Party these days finds itself in a catch of its own making. In the public eye it has become the ardent supporter of an international conference which arouses little enthusiasm in Israel without, on the other hand, enjoying compensation for this lack of popularity by the feeling of having at least made a meaningful contribution to the peace process. The chances of such a conference convening in the foreseeable future seem dim; and even if it does convene, there are enough "rejectionists" on all sides to

'The real obstacle to the Palestinian option is our irrational taboo. As if it were possible to solve the conflict without the Palestinians.'

put spokes in its wheels and prevent any real progress being made.

Of course, nobody can be surprised by the automatic opposition of Yitzhak Shamir and his colleagues (or rather, perhaps, his competitors) in the Likud. Panic grips them whenever there is only the faintest sign of a remote chance of negotiations. After all, negotiating means "give and take" - and since they are not willing to give anything, and their highest goal is the preservation of the status quo, their inevitable and immediate reaction is to stop any such move before it starts.

All the commentators who have ascribed Shamir's hard-line stand to his needs in internal Herut squabbles may be right - to a point. But there is much more to it than that. Shamir and the rest of the Herut leaders are genuinely frightened of anything that smacks of peace as they know very well what it entails. And it is certainly not insignificant that an ever-growing number of people in the Likud right-wing, as well as in Tehiya, Gush Emunim, etc., will now openly say that no peace is worth the price we shall have to pay.

More prudent Likud leaders prefer to continue solemnly declaring

their belief in peace while doing exactly nothing. But this does not alter the fact that we are now in the midst of a most serious development: for large parts of the Israeli people, prodded on by the right-wing leadership, peace has ceased to be the major goal of Israeli policy. Not only not "peace now" but not even peace as the aim for which to strive. It is no longer a question of having nobody to talk to, but rather of not wanting to talk about anything.

AS FOR Labour, they are beset by a different problem. Most of their leaders understand that a continuation of the present deadlock is neither possible nor even desirable from an Israeli point of view. Time is against us in a number of ways, certainly demographically, probably also politically and even militarily. The pious belief that whatever comes, the *netzach Yisrael lo yeshaker* (the glory of Israel will never fail) is a dangerous and irresponsible gamble with the fate of our people. Breaking the deadlock is in Israel's as much as Arab interests.

But Labour has become the victim of its obsession with the "Jordanian option" which actually has no right to be called an option at all, since it allows for no other but this one and only solution.

That is why Shimon Peres has suddenly become the great supporter of an international conference. From his point of view such a conference is the logical step to take. If Jordan is your only option, and if King Hussein has repeatedly declared that he cannot enter negotiations without international legitimization, and if you do not want the stalemate to continue - you are left with no choice except an international conference.

Moreover, while there are some very real disadvantages to such a forum, they are certainly a long shot away from the ridiculous picture of it being "a danger to the existence of

Israel" as painted by Prime Minister Shamir.

As for the "spectre" of Soviet involvement, one must be very naive indeed to believe that any kind of settlement can be arrived at against active Soviet opposition. As for the danger of Israel being isolated against all other participants, one can only ask if by saying "no" to it now, are we any less isolated? And as for the premier's fear of a diktat, the simple truth is that no international conference can force anything on anybody.

The real danger of such a conference lies somewhere else entirely and has hardly been mentioned by its opponents. Whenever all Arab partners sit together, it is always the most extreme and most intransigent who call the tune. The danger (perhaps not considered as such by Likud) is, therefore, that the rejectionists will be able to sabotage even any subsequent direct negotiations which would take place under the umbrella of the conference.

HOWEVER, the real question is if Shimon Peres's basic assumption of the one and only option is right. Because if Labour would be willing to explore, along with the Jordanian option, the possibility of a Palestine option - the whole picture would radically change.

True, this might entail getting rid

'For large parts of the Israeli people, prodded on by the right-wing leadership, peace has ceased to be the major goal of Israeli policy.'

of a sacred taboo in Israel public opinion, something Labour itself has done much to consecrate: "No negotiations ever with the PLO." But in spite of the diligent search for other "authentic" Palestinian leaders, none seem to be willing to come forward without at least some kind of PLO sanction.

It is, in any case, high time for us to climb down from that tall tree of

Dry Bones



"never ever." True statesmanship does not know such terms. To a certain extent, the tables have turned on this matter. In the past, it had always been Israel who tried to meet any Arab partner who, on his part, was willing to do so. The reason was simple: such a meeting implied recognition. Now it is Arafat who has several times expressed his desire to meet Israeli leaders unconditionally and naturally, it is for the very same reason. But if it is recognition, it would mean mutual recognition. And eventually, that is the only road to peace.

Nevertheless, even that need not be given for nothing. In view of Arafat's past record of outstanding unreliability regarding any moves in the peace process, and his continuous pandering to rejectionist elements, Israel would be justified in demanding certain safeguards, above all the cessation of all terrorist activities. If Arafat cannot give these, then (and perhaps only then) the way might be opened for a realistic alternative Palestinian option (maybe even without it being officially opposed by the PLO).

Anyway, with all sympathy for the

predicament Shimon Peres found himself in, he was guilty of exaggeration when he said anybody opposing the international conference "is killing the peace process." Progress can be made without an international conference, though not by the Likud prescription of preserving the status quo. There is an additional avenue to peace by cancelling the monopoly accorded so far to the Jordanian option. Paradoxically, proving that Israel has additional options might even speed King Hussein's readiness to enter negotiations. If there is more than one potential buyer, prices go up.

The real obstacle to the Palestinian option is our own irrational taboo. As if it were possible to solve the conflict without the Palestinians. After all, does Peres really believe he can come to an international conference at which there will be no appropriate Palestinian representation, at least approved if not accredited by the PLO?

The question is: why not deal directly with them?

The writer is a fellow of the Yad Tabenkin Research Institute of the United Kibbutz movement.

READERS' LETTERS

REPLYING TO RABBI GOREN

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - After reading Rabbi Shlomo Goren's attack on Reform Judaism ("Israel needs its religion," February 13), one is left with the impression that either Rabbi Goren has an irrational hatred for Reform Judaism or that he is misleading the Israeli public.

Where has Rabbi Goren been living these past 37 years to claim that the secular and religious camps since statehood have formed a harmonious "partnership" which created "national unity" until the Reform Jews came along to ruin everything? The reality of coalition politics these past 37 years demonstrates the opposite: since statehood we have witnessed a growing alienation and radicalization of secular and religious forces resulting in the coalition prize of an inflated Orthodox political power base.

To claim that Reform Judaism is responsible for the current tension between secular and religious camps is at best a fantasy and at worst a resort to the scapegoat doctrine.

Ultimately far more destructive to Klal Yisrael is Goren's claim that Jews in Israel should have no bonds or ties to Reform Jews (which includes, of course, our converts) living in the Diaspora.

The day will soon come when responsible Reform Jews worldwide will say in unison: *Dayanu*, and act accordingly. Enough to the insults which call into question Reform commitment to Israel. Enough to the insults which disparage our 10,000 Reform Jews living in Israel, and our two kibbutzim, Galilee mizpe, 17 congregations, education and community centres, rabbinical seminary, youth hostel and youth programming. Enough to the hypocrisy which permits declared anti-Zionist yeshivot to receive thousands of dollars of government and Jewish Agency funds (no small part of which come from Reform Jews) while teachers, nurses, and community workers face massive budget cuts.

Israel truly needs its religion - a Judaism which inspires love, mutual respect and trust among its people. A Judaism which teaches its rabbis the noble lesson found in tractate Menachot 27a: "Israel can be reconciled to God only when all Jews are one brotherhood."

Rabbi JOEL OSERAN,
World Union
for Progressive Judaism
Jerusalem.

Sir, - In his article of Feb. 13, Rabbi Goren attempts to lay the blame for all of Israel's current religious problems on the various branches of Jewish thought in the United States. In addition, he states that "even the majority of American Orthodox conversions are not conducted for purely religious reasons..."

Gurdjieff
Ouspensky
Centre
052-574423

WHAT UMBRELLA?

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - An international conference to serve as an "umbrella" for direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan? Clarification is needed as to its format and the role of the participating nations.

Does "umbrella" mean that the presence of the invited nations would protect the reluctant, fearful King Hussein from the recriminations and threats of the other hostile Arab nations who oppose any contact with Israel?

Would the attendant nations, having brought the negotiators together, consider their role as an umbrella completed and then disperse?

Or, refraining from injecting themselves into the talks, would they sit around and watch as Israel and Jordan face each other across the negotiations table?

Or would Israel and Jordan retire to private quarters to conduct their negotiations, with the invited nations being briefed at the end of each negotiating session?

The problem, of course, is how to conduct direct negotiations free from the pressures of the "invited" (or is it "participating") nations.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the chief advocate of an international conference, should inform the public how he envisions such a conference would function.

Netanya. SAUL SIGELSCHEFFER

SUPPORT FOR DRUSE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - Druse Knesset members have acted well in demanding that promises be fulfilled to bridge the gap between Druse and Jewish settlements, as a condition for their support for the budget presently before the Knesset.

The time has come for MKs and

AMIN ZEIDAN

Druse Students Society
Ben-Gurion University
Beersheba.

JNF FORESTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - With all due respect to the many praiseworthy soil reclamation and afforestation projects of the JNF, I must strongly object to the unfounded and exaggerated statements in the article by Bill Clark (Supplement, February 10).

As a soil scientist I wish to challenge the statement that afforestation creates soil and conserves water. Trees can only grow where there is *a priori* enough soil, not necessarily as a continuous layer but sufficient volumes of it between outcropping rocks to support the root system and to hold the water which they need. Trees depend on and interact with the soil. This is not tantamount to producing it.

Many controlled experiments both in Israel and in other countries have shown that forested slopes use about 100 mm. more water per dunam than non-forested ones, so this is also hardly consistent with the claim of conserving water. Well documented observations that the presence of vegetation retards soil erosion on slopes does not mean that the opposite conclusion on creating soil can be drawn from this, i.e. that afforestation of eroded slopes will make soil. Soil formation is a slow, geological process and is certainly not accomplished within the lifetime of the JNF or of its experts.

The 20 million trees which have been planted "in places where world experts once claimed forest could not survive" and "have had to revise their opinion on desert forestry" is another example of unnecessary exaggeration. Are there progress re-

ports on the state of these forests and is the progress in accordance with expectations prepared on the basis of a proper land-use capability study?

We all want more plants and forests to improve the esthetic and recreational features of our landscape, which in a few cases can even become a viable economic enterprise. But cannot this be done without exaggerated propaganda? Cannot the supporters of JNF bear to hear the true facts? Would they be less supportive if the JNF directors would first conduct or support controlled experiments on an appropriate scale so that their statements could be acclaimed also by others than JNF experts?

We need more support for research on the nature of the soils and the best way of their utilization under various environmental stresses prevailing in the Negev. Obviously the results of such experiments would enable better planting strategies in the future and easily justify the expenditure on research by preventing failures, of which there are ample examples.

It is customary for development organizations supported by public funds, which the JNF essentially is, to undergo periodic reviews by outside sources about the projects carried out in the past, their success, methods of operation and professional standards. When was the last time such a review of JNF field operations was carried out?

DAN H. YAALON,
Professor of Earth Sciences
Jerusalem. Hebrew University

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